

## Fusarium (*Fusarium moniliforme*) in Sorghum

Symptoms - Lower two internodes contain reddish pith.

Leaves may suddenly turn bluish grey (resembling frost damage). Stem often stays green. Heads lose sheen and become dull, smaller and contain sterile florets with often smaller grain. Plants then die and lodge in the stalk and peduncle regions.

Occurrence - Fusarium is always present and is triggered by stress related situations such as:

1. Lack of fertilizer
2. Excess of fertilizer
3. Dry conditions
4. Very good start and bad finish

The severity of attack and its distribution through the field will depend on soil types, fertility, drainage, insect pressures, cultural practices (wheel tracks), and other diseases.

It can attack any hybrid but under certain conditions there can be a varietal difference. Staygreen varieties should be less susceptible.

Control - Reducing stresses on the plant such as good weed control, and avoiding high plant populations are the only ways to reduce the incidence of the disease and reduce lodging.