Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) of Cereals
A Disease of Concern For Alberta!

Symptoms of fusarium head blight caused by
Fusarium graminearum

- Premature ripening due to take-all root rot
- Advanced ripening due to take-all (note sooty mold growth on dead tissue)
- Blackened stem and roots confirm take-all root rot
- Root rot caused by Fusarium spp. or C. sativus will cause premature ripening.
- Copper deficiency causes patchy ripening. Roots are normal. Large areas may be affected.
- Blighted wheat head and sporulation due to another Fusarium species
- Discolouration of barley heads due to spot blotch and net blotch
- Wheat stem maggot will cause single stems to prematurely ripen
- Wheat stem maggot inside stem
- Barley grain overwintered in the swath can look moldy and even pinkish. These symptoms are not caused by F. graminearum, but by F. avenaceum, which does not produce DON

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- Photographs courtesy of the Western Committee on Plant Disease, and R.A Martin, I. Evans, R. Clear, A. Tekauz, J. Gilbert, and T.K. Turkington
- Consult provincial factsheets (e.g. Fusarium Head Blight of barley and wheat, Agdex 110/631-1, AAFRD) and variety guides for more information.