Aphids Found, Temperatures May Kill

Wheat is in the green up stage and about eight inches tall in most area fields according to Jill Scheidt, agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension, who scouted fields in Arcola and north of Lamar on March 25.

"Quite a bit of henbit and chickweed among other annual weeds are being seen in wheat fields. Now is the time to treat for henbit and chickweed; herbicides are most effective when applied to weeds under two inches in height or diameter," said Scheidt.

Winter annual weeds can cause up to 37 percent yield loss. Scheidt says to apply herbicides, like Harmony Extra at a rate of .45 to .9 oz/acre, before these weeds flower and at temperatures of 60 degrees or more.

During this week's scout, Scheidt also found three to four bird-cherry-oat aphids per linear foot of row. Aphids are usually active when temperatures reach 60 degrees.

"As temperatures warm, aphids become less cold tolerant and do not withstand dramatic fluctuations in temperature," said Scheidt. "Lower temperatures this weekend could kill some of them. In temperatures lower than 60 degrees they can be found near the crown, otherwise they will be on the underside of the leaf."

Threshold levels for bird-cherry-oat aphids, identified by a red band near the rear, are 25 aphids/foot of row. At this level an insecticide treatment such as 1.3 to 1.9oz/acre of Warrior or 3.2 to 4oz/acre of Mustang is justified.

Consult the MU Extension 2015 Pest Management Guide for specific pesticide instructions.

More Information
The weekly field scouting report is sponsored by University of Missouri and Barton County Extension. For more information on the scouting report, or to learn how to receive the information earlier by telephone, contact the Barton County Extension Center at (417) 682-3579.