

**August 10th-
September 10th**

**August 15th-
September 15th**

**August 25th-
September 25th**

**September 5th-
October 5th**

Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus

VOLUNTEER CONTROL WINDOWS

Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus

Wheat streak mosaic is a complex of three viruses: wheat streak mosaic virus, Triticum mosaic virus, and High Plains wheat mosaic virus. The wheat streak mosaic complex of viruses is vectored by the tiny wheat curl mite. The highest risk place for curl mites to survive the summer is volunteer wheat.

Volunteer Control Windows

Volunteer control windows are defined as the 30-day period prior to the start of the optimal winter wheat planting date for the region.

If mites are allowed to survive on this volunteer wheat or alternative hosts until the fall established wheat crop is planted, there is a high likelihood of another WSMV outbreak in 2026.

CONSIDERATIONS

- All volunteer wheat should be terminated and completely dead prior to the start of your regional volunteer control window.
- Where possible, the fall wheat crop should not be planted until the end of the volunteer control window.
- Other winter cereals (such as rye and triticale) should not be planted during this period as they can serve as a “bridge” for the curl mites to move to fall-established wheat.
- A regional “break” in the volunteer wheat green bridge will allow for wheat curl mites to die off prior to the start of the optimal wheat planting window.
- Volunteer wheat that emerges after this period is of less concern, as it will be emerging at a similar time as the fall-established winter wheat crop.
- Success is dependent on coordinated efforts in communities.

