Take-all, which is caused by the fungus *Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *tritici*, is a root rot of wheat that gained its name from being devastating when severe. This fungus survives on residue of infected wheat, grassy weeds, and other susceptible host plants, and then moves from this residue onto roots of seedling wheat in the fall. Plants growing in moist areas are the most severely affected because take-all infection is favored by high moisture. Usually the initial incidence and severity of take-all in a field is low, but increases dramatically over the next 2-4 years.

**How to Manage Take-all of Wheat**

Rotate out of wheat for at least a year. Do not rotate to barley or brome grass, which are susceptible to take-all. Many grassy weeds also are susceptible to take-all, so controlling these is important.

Other cultural practices may help control take-all by facilitating residue breakdown. These primarily include tillage to incorporate residue into the soil and late planting to provide more time for residue breakdown and less time in the fall for infection.

Maintain soil pH between 5.0-6.0. A pH greater than 6.0 can enhance take-all incidence and severity.

Continuous wheat production can result in “take-all decline,” which is a decline in the incidence and severity of take-all after 3-5 years of continuous wheat production. Take-all will remain low as long as only wheat is grown in that field. Even one year in a different crop or liming the field to increase pH can disrupt take-all decline and lead to severe take-all that is most noticeable 2-3 years later.

Several seed treatment fungicides are labeled for suppression or control of take-all, but field tests have not indicated high levels of control.

Reports indicate that take-all is less severe when ammonia nitrogen is used, and when fertilizer applications are split.