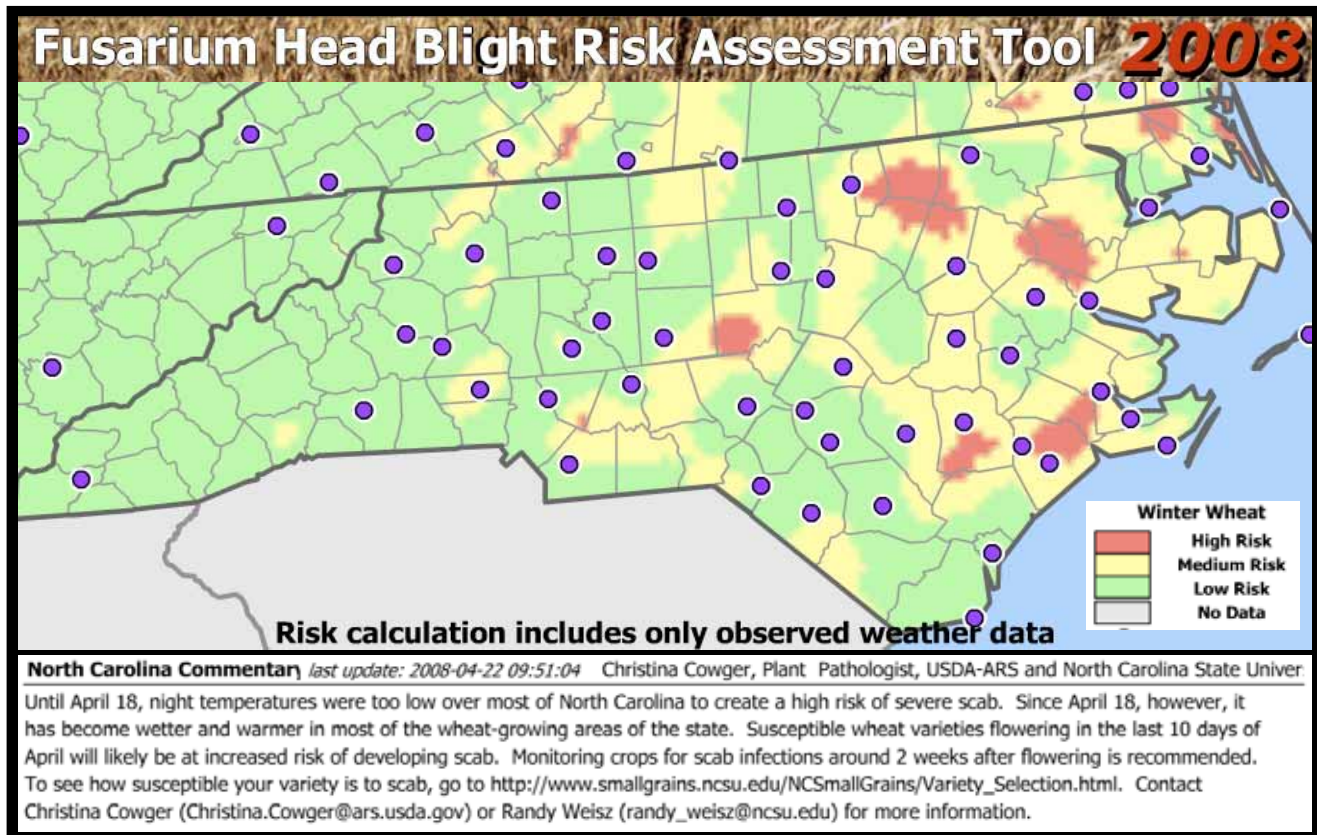


Head Scab Alert For North Carolina - May 8, 2008

Weather conditions during the end of April were ideal for the development of Head Scab. Based on those weather conditions, the scab forecasting models predicted elevated scab risk for wheat that flowered between about April 24 and May 1 in large areas of eastern NC, with particularly high risk in the Franklin/Nash/Warren/Martin area, as well as the Jones/Duplin/Onslow and Camden/Pasquotank areas. Model predictions are shown below.



We are starting to see Scab in research plots and commercial fields in these at-risk areas. Consequently, it would be a good idea for producers to scouting their fields to determine if scab is present before heads start to turn golden-brown, because then visual symptoms can no longer be easily seen. Scabby heads will be bleached out and/or pink in color.



Scabby heads will have more shriveled grain, (called Tombstones) which will also have higher mycotoxin (DON) concentrations. For fields with high scab levels, adjusting the combine to blow out the tombstones will help reduce mycotoxin levels. Need more help? Please see:

<http://www.smallgrains.ncsu.edu/Pests/Scab.html>