

RISK ASSESSMENT – MYCOTOXINS

<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Risk Level</i>	<i>Description of Risk</i>	<i>Action</i>
Previous Crop	High	When wheat is grown directly after maize	Crop rotation recommended for reducing the risk of contamination.
	Medium	For other wheat crops	Rotation with non-host crops will reduce <i>Fusarium</i> infestation.
	Low	For less susceptible crops (i.e. other cereals, oilseeds, pulses)	Try and avoid growing wheat directly after maize – consider an alternative break crop.
Variety Choice		Some varieties are much more susceptible to infection by <i>Fusarium</i>	Choose hybrids or varieties appropriate for the soil and climatic conditions and agronomic practices used. Grow seed varieties developed for resistance to <i>Fusarium</i> fungi and/or insect pests because damaged grains provide a site for infection.
Cultivation	High	For no tillage or minimum tillage	Ploughing that results in the removal, destruction or burial of infected crop residues is likely to reduce the incidence of <i>Fusarium</i> in the following crop.
	Low	Land that has been ploughed.	
Stress	High	Where plants are stressed due to drought, nutrient deficiencies or rain at flowering etc.	Avoid plant stress and use appropriate fertilisers and crop protection products.
Harvest	High	Wet harvest conditions	If possible, harvest grain at appropriate moisture content. If wet grain is harvested, dry as soon as possible after harvest avoiding mechanical damage to grain. Dry to moisture content of maximum 14.5%. Remove shrivelled grain and other foreign matter before storage.
Storage	High	If grain is not properly dried and cooled	Ensure that grain is properly dried and cooled. Avoid damage to grain during drying. Check regularly for hot/damp spots which can increase the risk of Ochratoxin A.
	Low	If moisture content of stored grain is 14.5% or below and temperature and moisture are regularly monitored.	Maintain moisture content of stored grain at 14.5% moisture or below. Take immediate action to deal with any problems.

