
The Sprout

Montana Seed Growers Association

Summer 2026

2026 MSGA Application Late Fee Structure

Pulse Crops & Perennials

*May 25th: Pulse crop & perennial applications were due

*After May 25th: there is now a \$50.00 late fee for pulse crop & perennial applications

After June 15th: \$100.00 late fee for pulse crops & perennials applications

After July 15th: \$200.00 late fee on all applications including pulse crops & perennials

All Crops

June 15th: All applications are due

After June 15th: \$50.00 late fee on small grains

After July 1st: \$100.00 late fee on small grains

After July 15th: \$200.00 late fee on all applications

*The pulse crop application deadline was extended until June 7, 2026 because of adverse weather events across the state.



MSGA Scholarship Update

At our annual board meeting last December, the MSGA Board of Directors approved \$2,000 for a MSGA scholarship fund. The application deadline was Friday, May 1st. This was our first year funding higher education scholarships and the number of applicants exceeded our expectations. The MSGA Board is currently reviewing the scholarship applications. The recipients will be announced in the fall newsletter after all applicants have been notified of the Board's decisions.

MSGA Board of Directors Update

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Bob Hofman, our District 2 Director. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his children — Jason, Melissa, Jeremy, and Kim — and to all of Bob's family and friends. We will miss Bob's company and are very thankful for his many contributions to MSGA over the years.

Robert (Bob) Hofman went to be with his Lord Saturday, April 11, 2026.

Bob was born to Sam and Ruth (Westendorp) Hofman on August 30, 1950 in Bozeman, MT.

Bob grew up in Amsterdam, MT, and attended Manhattan Christian School. As he was growing up, his father, Sam, helped to cultivate a love of the land in Bob, and he enjoyed learning about farming practices. After graduating from Manhattan Christian High School, he attended Helena Vo Tech for two years before returning to the farm. Being the oldest in the family, Bob's younger sisters mentioned a new teacher at MCHS, and soon Bob was introduced to the love of his life, Margaret Koning. They married June 21, 1974. Together they raised four children and have been blessed with 12 grandchildren. Bob lost his wife, Margaret, to cancer in 2016.

Throughout the years, Bob raised sheep, cattle, wheat, and barley, and in 2009 was named Conservationist of the Year. Bob served on the Gallatin County Weed Board and has served on the Montana Seed Growers Association for many years. Bob was also a member of the Montana Stockgrowers Association. Bob served as Elder and Deacon at Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Churchill. Bob also enjoyed being in a bowling league and looked forward to lunches with friends. He also loved spending time with family, traveling to see family, taking drives around beautiful Montana, and watching grandkids play in their various sporting events.

Bob is survived by son, Jason (Trista) Hofman (Aubrey, Ethen, Ryan) of Churchill, MT; daughter, Melissa (Tony) Hansen (Eli, Isaiah, Brielle) of Wayne, NE; son, Jeremy (Alisha) Hofman (Sam, Owen, Adlee, Madelyn) of Havre, MT; daughter, Kim (Evan) Swager (Colton, Lexi) of Manhattan, MT; sisters Jude (Greg) Hofman and Sherry Hofman; sister-in-law Colleen Smith; brothers-in-law Harold (Pearl) Koning, and Dennis Kok.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret Hofman; parents, Sam and Ruth (Westendorp) Hofman; brother, Rich Hofman; in-laws, Jacob and Pearl (Barkema) Koning; and sister-in-law, Kathy Kok.

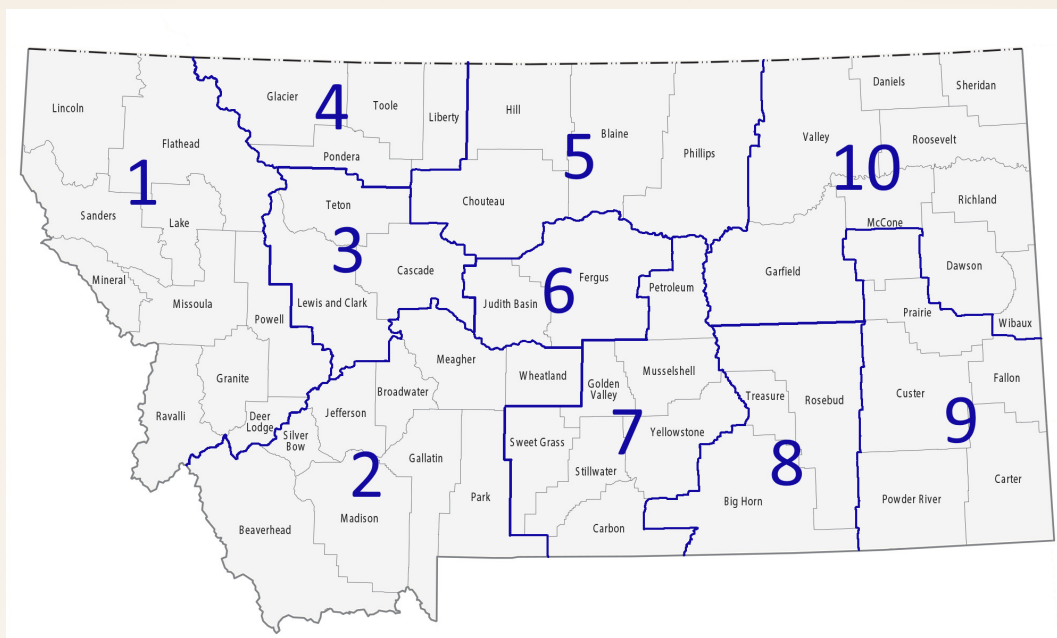
The family would like to thank Bozeman Health for their excellent care, as well as Bob's friends and church family for their love and support during his short battle with endocarditis.

Memorials can be made in Bob's name to Manhattan Christian School, 8000 Churchill Rd, Manhattan, Montana 59741.

Bob's seat on the MSGA Board of Directors will be temporarily vacant until an election is held this fall.



2026 MSGA Field Inspectors



A general 2026 MSGA inspector map. Contractors & growers with fields in multiple counties may have a different inspector than listed. Please contact the MSGA office if you have any questions.

1. Roger Hybner - (406) 951-3427
Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Lake,
Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli,
Granite, Deer Lodge

2. Kenzie Crew - (406) 595-8747
(Pulses, Oil Seeds & Small Grains)
Beaverhead, Silverbow, Jefferson,
Broadwater, Meagher, Madison,
Gallatin, Park

2. Andrew Lenherz - (406) 868-7651
(Perennials)
Beaverhead, Silverbow, Jefferson,
Broadwater, Meagher, Madison,
Gallatin, Park

3. Lisa & Brian Bedord - (406) 590-9091
Teton, Lewis & Clark, Cascade

4. Erin Miller - (406) 450-4858
Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Pondera

5. Lainey & Brianna Terry - (406) 390-6679
Hill, Choteau, Blaine, Phillips

6. Thad White - (814) 931-7758
Judith Basin, Fergus

7. Chad Massar - (406) 818-0545
Petroleum, Golden Valley,
Musselshell, Sweet Grass,
Stillwater, Yellowstone, Carbon

7. Elisha Otis - (406) 861-0082
Carbon

8. Mike Morgan - (406) 853-2137
Treasure, Rosebud, Big Horn

8. Tom Davis - (406) 853-2198
Treasure, Rosebud, Big Horn

9. Mary Nagle - (406) 939-2108
McCone, Prairie, Custer, Fallon,
Powder River, Carter

10. James Johnson - (406) 480-0545
Valley, Daniels, Sheridan,
Roosevelt, Garfield, McCone,
Richland, Dawson, Wibaux

2026 MSGA Field Inspector Training

We are excited to have a few new inspectors this season in district 2, district 5, and district 10. Our new inspectors have backgrounds in farming, agronomy, biology, crop inspection, and crop certification.

Also, some returning inspectors have slightly different areas they will cover this summer due to changes in acres this year. If you have not already, you should receive your inspector(s) contact information once your 2026 applications are submitted and approved. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

We held our inspector training on May 16th at the Post Agronomy Farm in Bozeman and everyone is looking forward to the season. We would like to thank everyone that participated in our training day. Including Dr. Tim Seipel, a plant and agricultural ecologist, and the MSU Cropland Weed Extension specialist for reviewing weed ID and herbicide resistance with us. And Doug Holen, the MSU Foundation Seed Director, for hosting us at his seed house.

Right: MSGA staff and field inspectors listening to Rebecca Papke present at the 2026 inspector training meeting.



Left: MSGA field inspectors IDing weeds in research plots at the Post Farm with Dr. Tim Seipel.

Preparing for Field Inspections

Communication — Good communication with your inspector(s) is important. It is the grower's responsibility to make sure that their fields get inspected at the proper time. Different crops are inspected at different growth stages. It is important that all your crops are inspected at the correct time. Some crops are inspected multiple times. Any crop harvested before inspection automatically becomes ineligible for certification.

Rouging — Prior to a field inspection it is important that growers and contractors understand the condition of their field. This includes scouting the field for weeds, off-type plants, and other crops. Check variety descriptions for off-type tolerances. Rouging may be required in order to pass inspection. This should be done before your inspector(s) arrival. Adequate rouging could help avoid rejected fields and/or reinspection fees.

Noxious Weeds — Fields must be free, or not allowed to go to seed, of "prohibited" and "restricted" noxious weeds, as defined in the Montana Agricultural Seed Law, Title 80, Chapter 5, Montana Code Annotated. Mow patches of prohibited noxious or restricted weeds in a certified field prior to field inspection.

Find more noxious weed information and management tools on the Montana Department of Agriculture noxious weed education page here.



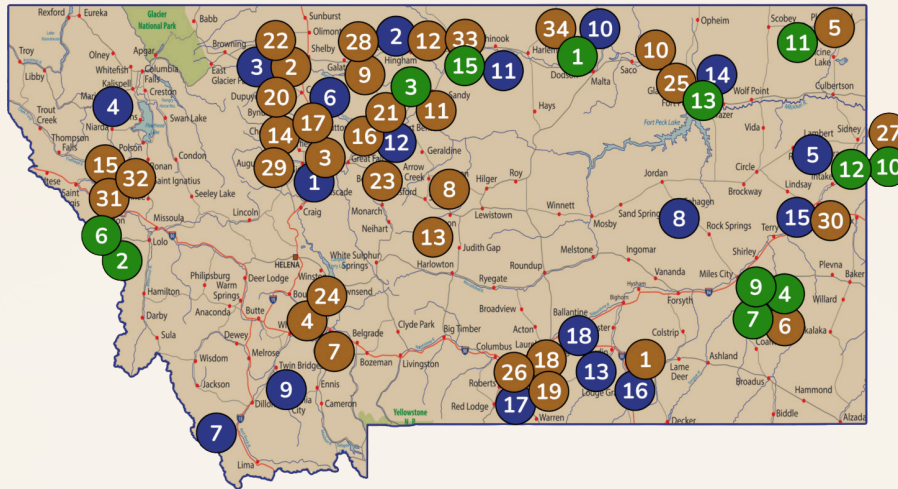
Wild Oats — It is best to rogue all wild oats out of the field before inspection. For small grains, there is an allowance of 5 wild oat plants per acre. All or parts of small grain fields with more than 5 wild oat plants per acre will be rejected. For tame oats, there is a zero wild oat plants per acre tolerance. A tame oat field with any amount of wild oats per acre will be rejected.

Canceling Acres — In the case that rouging a part or a whole field up to certification standards is not possible, it is an option to cancel acres. Growers may cancel any amount of a field or the entire field. This must be done prior to your inspector(s) walking the field. Canceling acres is also an option if the field is in poor condition because of severe weather. Refunds for canceled acres will be issued when all field inspections have been completed, this is usually in October.

Reinspections — If a field does not meet the minimum standards, inspectors will immediately contact the MSGA office and the grower. A plan will be made between the grower and MSGA if all or part of the field can be brought up to standards. Once the grower has completed the necessary steps to improve the field, they may contact the MSGA office and request a reinspection.

Cleaning & Handling Facilities

All Cleaning and Handling facilities were sent 2026 applications in May. If you own or operate a cleaning or handling facility and did not receive an application, please call the MSGA office as soon as possible. If you have not completed and returned your application, please do so as soon as possible if you plan on being listed as a certified facility. Once your application has been processed we will mail you an authorization certificate. These certificates are valid for one year, from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.



An Update from the Montana State Seed Lab

Seed Lab Customers,

Effective July 1, 2026, we will be implementing an updated fee schedule for MT State Seed Lab tests and services. The price increases being implemented on the new fee schedule are meant to continue to position us near the regional average rates charged by surrounding state labs as well as offset increasing costs of supplies, equipment, and lab personnel.

A copy of our new fee schedule is attached here. The new prices will be applied to samples received after July 1, 2026.

We value your continued business and look forward to your continued understanding and support in helping us to grow alongside you.

Please feel free to call (406) 994-2141 or email seedlab@montana.edu us with any questions, concerns or comments.

Erik Hayes
Program Manager - Montana State Seed Lab
Marsh Lab Room 40
1911 West Lincoln
Bozeman, MT 59718

Montana State Seed Laboratory Price List – Effective July 1, 2026

PLEASE DO NOT PAY UNTIL YOU ARE INVOICED

<u>Species</u>		<u>Analysis</u>		<u>Species</u>		<u>Analysis</u>		
		P&N ₁	Germ	TZ		P&N ₁	Germ	TZ
Bentgrass & Redtop		\$57.00	\$38.08	\$54.79	Prairie Sandreed	\$58.00	\$35.50	\$49.75
	Bluegrass & Alkaligrass	\$48.72	\$36.95	\$54.17	Ricegrass, Indian (may require dormancy)	\$39.57	\$60.00	\$61.47
Bluestem, Gamma, Galleta, Indiangrass		\$91.00	\$41.21	\$58.00	Safflower & Sunflower	\$27.67	\$29.67	\$48.00
Bromegrass, Fescue, Orchardgrass, Ryegrass		\$48.17	\$37.96	\$53.90	Sagebrush	\$56.80	\$45.15	\$61.00
Canarygrass		\$40.97	\$35.70	\$55.78	Saltbushes	\$53.30	\$44.25	\$59.88
Cereals		\$29.37	\$23.98	\$49.00	Sainfoin & Vetch	\$30.00	\$28.83	\$60.00
Flax		\$25.20	\$27.47	\$58.00	Sorghums & Sudangrass	\$23.94	\$23.45	\$45.00
Flowers		\$40.33	\$42.54	\$61.21	Sugarbeets	\$42.30	\$48.20	\$63.40
Foxtail (Creeping & Meadow)		\$64.56	\$41.96	\$59.80	Timothy	\$37.36	\$33.58	\$49.40
Gramma & Sideoats		\$69.75	\$40.00	\$65.00	Trees	\$38.23	\$46.61	\$60.83
Hemp		\$47.50	\$37.00	\$62.50	Wheatgrasses (except Western)	\$44.83	\$34.74	\$49.54
Legumes (large seed)		\$29.52	\$28.45	\$62.45	Wheatgrass, western	\$47.04	\$36.16	\$50.33
Legumes (small seed)		\$29.52	\$28.45	\$50.20	Winterfat	\$90.50	\$46.33	\$60.00
Milletts		\$29.00	\$24.60	\$45.00	Wildrye	\$47.33	\$36.10	\$50.94
Mustards & Rape		\$42.07	\$30.40	\$49.57	Vegetables	\$36.92	\$34.80	\$54.16
Natives (indigenous)		\$49.00	\$49.40	\$68.25	Pellet Germination	N/A	\$63.00	N/A
Needlegrass (may require dormancy)		\$42.80	\$60.00	\$51.27	Mixtures	P and/or G fee per species + hourly		

Excess cleaning (high amounts of other crops, weeds, inert material) will incur additional hourly fees (\$59.00/hr) in 15-minute increments.

¹Purity/Noxious analysis includes MT Noxious unless otherwise requested. Cereal and large legume purity analysis includes Seed Count.

Other Services

Quarantine (India, Pakistan, Japan, etc.)	\$65.00	Clearfield & Co-Axium	\$71.17
MSGa – Cereals & Flax	\$7.00 additional	Electroconductivity	\$56.00
West USA Nox., All-States USA Nox.	\$20.90 additional	Moisture	\$20.50
Canadian Purity	\$38.00 additional	Seed Count	\$15.00
ISTA Rules	\$77.00 plus hourly	Ascochyta Plus	\$180.00
Dormancy (dormant TZ after germination)	\$24.00	BSMV	\$100.00
Rush Services	\$87.67	Seed Identification (species of an unknown seed)	\$13.00/species
Return Sample	\$12.22 + postage	Species ID (presence/count of a specified species in sample)	\$26.92
Hourly Rate	\$59.00	Sodium or Potassium Hydroxide (NaOH or KOH)	\$29.63
Cancellation Fee	\$14.67	Sample Envelopes	call
Administrative Fee (pulling storage samples, report modifications, etc)	\$15.83	Digital Imaging (subject to hourly charge)	\$10.00

MSU Crop Breeding & Research Programs Update: Spring Wheat Breeding Program

As summer approaches, the Spring Wheat Breeding & Genetics team has been busy releasing varieties, getting yield trials out to the research centers, and we had a couple graduate students complete their degrees. Regarding variety releases, we released a line with experimental number MT 21074, that has improved sawfly resistance compared to Dagmar. This release is in response to growers who have requested a variety with better standability compared to Dagmar. In addition to improved sawfly resistance, MT21074 protein content is similar to Dagmar, and yield is 2-3% lower than Dagmar, on average.



In addition to MT21074, we released MT21487, a Clearfield line in a Dagmar background, for licensing. Many of the traits in MT21487 are similar to Dagmar, but the line has the added benefit of being resistant to Beyond herbicide for those who need this tool for weed management challenges. MT21074 and MT21487 are good complements to our current spring wheat variety portfolio that includes Dagmar, MT Carlson, MT Dutton, and MT Ubet. Certified seed of MT Carlson and MT Dutton is available, starting in spring 2026. Certified seed for MT Ubet should be available in spring 2027.



MSU Crop Breeding & Research Programs Update: Spring Wheat Breeding Program continued...

We also had a couple graduate students complete their degrees at the end of the spring 2026 semester. Jared Lile received his PhD after studying and implementing prediction models using genomic and phenotypic data from historical data sets maintained by the spring wheat breeding research program. These tools will help us throw out poor quality experimental lines before they enter the statewide yield trial testing network and waste valuable resources that could otherwise been used on more promising lines.



Additionally, Ishita Isha completed her MS degree by studying the genetic architecture of the solid stem trait, which is important for sawfly resistance. Ishita studied lines that have different combinations of solid stem alleles to determine which ones will be most beneficial for providing sawfly resistance. Ishita also evaluated a line that was developed in Mexico, and discovered it carries a novel solid stem allele that could improve the expression of the solid stem trait, which intern should improve wheat stem sawfly resistance. Jared is planning to stay on with the spring wheat breeding program as a Post Doc to continue his work on genomic selection, and Ishita is planning to go out east to start a PhD program in Systems Biology. Congratulations to both students!

- Jason Cook, Spring Wheat Breeder
(406) 994-5060
jason.cook3@montana.edu



More information
about these varieties
can be found (here).



MSU Crop Breeding & Research Programs Update:

Winter Wheat Breeding Program

The Winter Wheat breeding program at Montana State University continues to make significant strides in developing high-yielding, resilient winter wheat varieties with improved end-use quality adapted to Montana's growing environments. A strong emphasis is improving resistance to wheat stem sawfly, along with phenomic and genomic technologies that can be integrated in the breeding & selection strategies to deliver varieties that meet the needs of the growers.

Each year, breeding programs conduct yield trial at multiple locations in Montana & North Dakota, evaluating experimental lines from MSU alongside entries from public & private breeding programs.

In 2025, two experimental lines, MT 2270 & MTCS22128, stood out for their consistent performance. MT 2270 is a hollow stem line which combines stable & high yields with resistance to stripe & stem rust which makes it a strong candidate for potential release. MTCS 22128 is a semi-solid two-gene Clearfield line, that has demonstrated high grain yields & lower stem cutting scores compared to Standclear CLP across various locations. Its herbicide tolerance & resistance to sawfly makes it a potential candidate for varietal release. Both lines, along with additional advanced breeding materials, are undergoing further evaluation in 2026 & will be demonstrated during the upcoming Montana Agricultural Experiment Station Field Days, offering growers an opportunity to see these promising candidates firsthand.

Beyond traditional breeding, the program is investing in drone-based imaging to improve selection & support decision making process in the breeding pipeline. Our recent results demonstrate that aerial phenotyping combined with advanced statistics can predict breeding lines with high yield performance. Building on these results, the program plans to integrate aerial phenotyping and genomics in early stages of breeding, such as the unreplicated yield testing stage to make the greatest impact on breeding efficiency.



MSU - Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology Department

April 16 at 3:49 PM · 🌐

Celebrating a beacon of excellence! 🎉 Congratulations to Ron Ramsfield on receiving the Bobcat Lifetime Achievement Award for his extraordinary 50 years of dedication to MSU! 🙌 His tireless efforts in the Plant Sciences Winter Wheat program have been a game-changer. 🌱 Ron's selfless nature, patience, and kindness have inspired countless individuals, demonstrating the profound impact we can have when we share our expertise with others. 🌞 His unwavering commitment to MSU, research, and agriculture is a shining example for us all to emulate. 🙏
THANK YOU RON!

MSU Crop Breeding & Research Programs Update: Winter Wheat Breeding Program continued...

Wheat stem sawfly remains one of the most significant challenges for Montana wheat growers. We have observed reduced sawfly cutting in a wheat population originally developed for aphid resistance. Selected lines from this population are now being evaluated in both greenhouse & field environments to validate the observed reduction in cutting & to better understand the underlying traits. If confirmed, this material could contribute valuable new sources of resistance for future variety development.

The MSU Winter Wheat Breeding Program will be participating in the upcoming Montana Agricultural Experiment Station Field Days, and we look forward to meeting with producers & industry partners across the state. These events are an opportunity to walk through trial plots, discuss ongoing production challenges, & share updates on the new & upcoming winter wheat varieties currently in the pipeline.

Our team is eager to hear from growers, answer questions, & gather feedback that help guide future breeding priorities.

- MSU Winter Wheat Breeding & Genetics — Suchismita (Sue) Mondal, Andrew Lehnerz, Ron Ramsfield, Arpit Gaur, Astried Rasmud, Ricardo Leiton, Sumaiya Islam

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY → FALL 2025 ←



CONTACT YOUR LOCAL
SEED DEALER OR MSGA
DIRECTORY FOR AVAILABLE
CERTIFIED SEED

AVAILABLE VARIETIES

SOLID STEM

BOBCAT
MT MEADOWLARK

MT WARCAT
WARHORSE

HOLLOW STEM

FLATHEAD
FOUROSIX

MT BARRETT

FORAGE (AWNLESS)

MT CASH

RAY



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Foundation
Seed Program

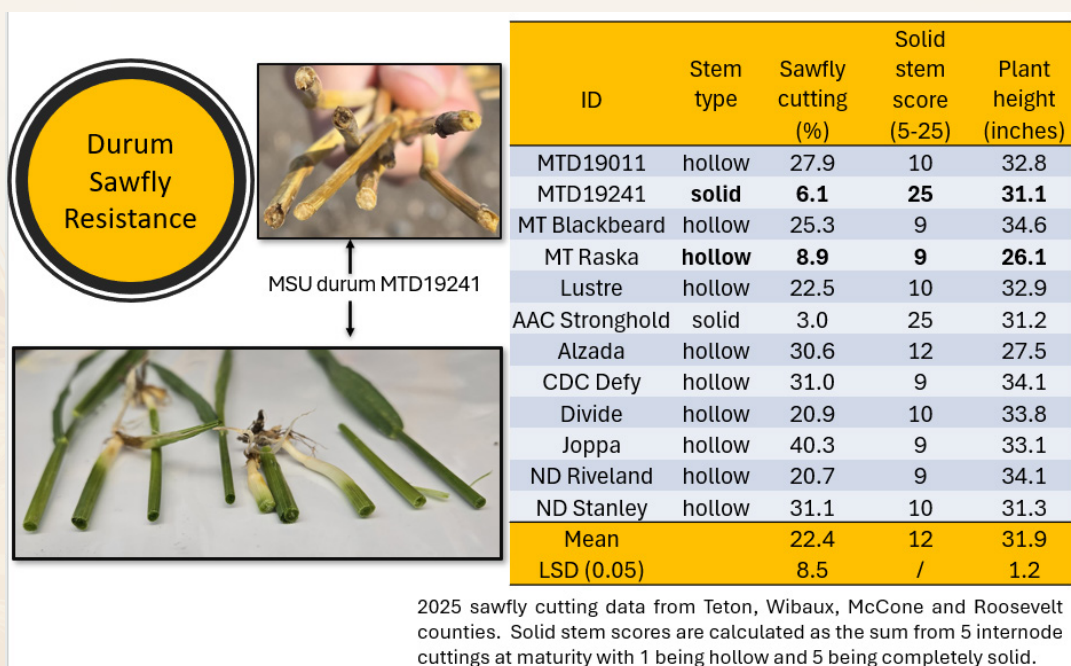
DOUG HOLEN
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BRANDEE JOHNSTON
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SPECIALIST
BRANDEE.JOHNSTON@MONTANA.EDU |
406.749.4154

MSU Crop Breeding & Research Programs Update: Durum Wheat Breeding Program

The last 12 months have been very productive for the MSU durum wheat breeding program. Our yield trials were conducted at eight locations across northeast and north central Montana, comparing 30 entries including 10 named varieties and 20 experimental lines. Two new lines, MTD19011 and MTD19241, rose to the top of our trials and were released in February 2026. MTD19241 is particularly exciting as it carries solid stems for wheat stem sawfly resistance. MTD19241 and MTD19241 have both been outyielding all named varieties. We also continued advancing our gene editing work, launching new projects targeting flowering time and plant height, and our HaHB4 drought tolerance transgene work is moving toward a first field evaluation in 2027.

We are proud of the momentum this program has built over the past decade with support from the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee, the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and the collaboration of MSU Research Center faculty and staff. Since 2020, we have released five durum varieties — MT Raska, MT Blackbeard, MTD18148, and MTD19241 and MTD19011 — all developed with Montana growers in mind. We look forward to seeing many of you at field days this summer. If you are in Bozeman, we would love it if you stopped by to visit with us about all the exciting developments in the program.



Mike Giroux – Durum Breeding Program PI
Phone: (406) 994-7877 Email: mgiroux@montana.edu

Andy Hogg- Program Manager
Brandon Tillett – Postdoctoral Research Associate
Prashant Kumar, Alanna Oiestad – Research Associates
Luis Esquivel Cervantes, Ethan Harbo, Megan Engel – Graduate Students

Upcoming Events

June 15 - MSGA All Crop Applications Due

June 15-17 - Montana Farm Bureau Summer Conference – Kalispell

July 7 - MT Dept. of Agriculture Pesticide Disposal Event – Polson

July 8 - MT Dept. of Agriculture Pesticide Disposal Event – Hamilton

July 9 - MT Dept. of Agriculture Pesticide Disposal Event – Butte

2026 MSU Summer Field Days

June 17 - 2:00 p.m. - Northern Agricultural Research Center - Havre

June 30 - 9:00 a.m. - Southern Agricultural Research Center - Huntley

July 7 - 8:30 a.m. - Western Triangle Agricultural Research Center - Conrad

July 8 - 8:15 a.m. - Central Agricultural Research Center - Moccasin

July 9 - 8:30 a.m. - Northwestern Agricultural Research Center - Creston

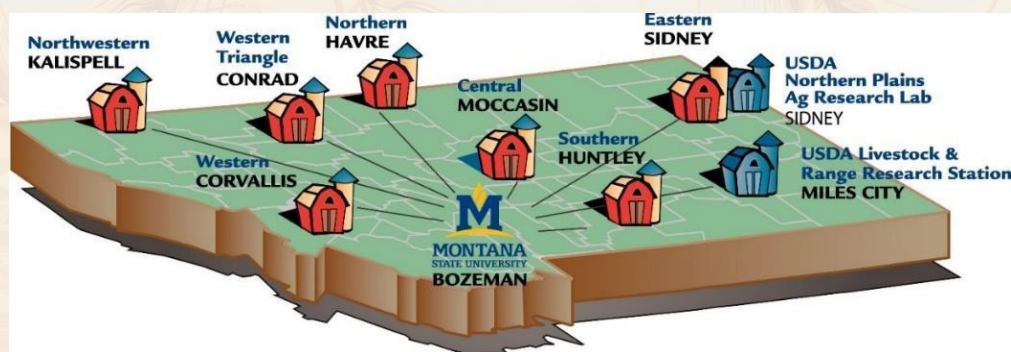
July 15 - 8:00 a.m. - Eastern Agricultural Research Center - Sidney

July 16 - 8:00 a.m. - Post Farm - Bozeman

July 23 - 8:00 a.m. - Lutz Farm - Belgrade

July 30 - 4:30 p.m. - Western Agricultural Research Center - Corvallis

August 27 - 5:00 p.m. - BART & Horticulture Farm - Bozeman



MSGA Office Holidays

Independence Day — Friday, July 3 (observed)

Labor Day — Monday, September 7



MSGA Staff

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