



quite effective. Because flocking birds are very responsive to the signals from others in their flock, a distress call from one bird is a sign to all the others that an area is unsafe. These have become quite sophisticated, with programmable or random call intervals that help to overcome birds' ability to get used to regular sound intervals. Make sure you are using a distress call that matches the bird species you need to scare away.

Here are some sources:

-OESCO, [www.oescoinc.com/](http://www.oescoinc.com/), 800-634-5557 or 413-369-4335. Box 540, Rte 116, Conway, MA 01341

--BirdGuard Bird Control Products, 800-331-2973 E-Mail: [info@birdguard.com](mailto:info@birdguard.com), 100 State Street Suite 312 Erie PA 16507

-Birdbusters, 300 Calvert Ave, Alexandria, VA 22301, phone (703) 299-8855

-Bird-X, Inc, 300 Elizatbeth Ave., Chicago, Ill 60607 (800) 860-0473

-Gemplers 100 Countryside Dr., PO box 270, Belleville, WI 53508 (800) 382-8473

### Shooting birds.

A federal permit is not required to shoot or otherwise control blackbirds, cowbirds, grackles, crows or magpies when they are found committing or are about to commit damage to or depredation upon agricultural crops. While hunting can reduce numbers over the long term, it may not be effective against flocks of invading birds. It is not illegal to display dead birds in the field, but it is not clear that this is an effective deterrent. For regulations on geese, consult the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

## More wheat varieties resistant to head scab now available

As wheat growers prepare to plant their crop this fall, they are encouraged to choose varieties that are resistant to head scab.

[Pierce Paul](#), an Ohio State University Extension plant pathologist, said that more varieties are available with good head scab resistance and high yield potential.

"In the past, there were very few Ohio-grown winter wheat varieties with decent scab resistance, and some of those varieties yielded poorly or did not grow well under our conditions," said Paul, who also holds an appointment with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. "Today, we have far more varieties with very good scab resistance in combination with very good yield potential."

Based on results of the 2010 Ohio Wheat Performance Trials, more than 20 percent of the varieties evaluated were considered resistant and more than 38 percent moderately resistant, for a total of 58 percent of the varieties rated at least moderately resistant.

A table of wheat varieties tested this year with percent resistance to head scab can be found at <http://bit.ly/9xL5v8>. A copy of the wheat trials is available at <http://oardc.osu.edu/wheattrials/default.asp?year=2010>.

Head scab, a disease that attacks wheat during the flowering stage under wet, humid conditions, was a severe problem for growers this year. Head scab incidence ranged anywhere from three percent to 60 percent throughout Ohio's wheat crop. In addition, vomitoxin contamination of the grain was a big problem with less than 1 part per million to 18 parts per million recorded at the grain elevators.

Paul said that choosing head scab-resistant varieties can help in managing the disease in years when environmental conditions may increase the potential for outbreaks.

"No variety is completely resistant or immune to scab, so if conditions are wet and humid during flowering, even varieties considered resistant will develop scab and become contaminated with vomitoxin. However, disease and toxin levels will be lower in resistant varieties than in susceptible varieties," said Paul. "In addition, with a scab resistant variety, growers will likely see greater benefit from the use of fungicides if scab develops."

Paul emphasizes that growers should place scab-resistant varieties high on their list of priorities when preparing for next year's wheat season.

## Pumpkin Field Day at Western Ag Research Station ♦ Jim Jasinski, Bob Precheur

If you are an experienced pumpkin grower or a novice, there is always something you can learn at the annual Pumpkin Field Day on September 1 from 6 ♦ 8 PM, held at the Western Ag Research Station in South Charleston. ♦

This year, Dr. Bob Precheur, Dept. of Horticulture and Crop Science, has a 20 variety pumpkin germplasm evaluation trial at the station and will present information on fruit size, shape, current trends, yield potential, and disease resistance. There are several companies who have entered seed material in the trial to be evaluated. ♦ This project is supported by the Ohio Vegetable and Small Fruit Research and Development Program.

Also at the field day Jim Jasinski, OSU Extension IPM Program, will talk to growers about an 11 treatment fungicide demonstration trial designed to control powdery mildew. ♦ Products included in the evaluation are conventional materials such as Quintec & Rally (Dow AgroSciences), Procure (Chemtura Corp.), Microthiol Disperss (United Phosphorus, Inc.), Quadris Opti (Syngenta), and Pristine (BASF Ag Products). ♦ We will also be testing a new fungicide Ph-D (Arysta Life Science), an experimental compound Luna Sensation (Bayer CropScience), and some OMRI approved products such as Kaligreen (Arysta Life Science), Oxidate (BioSafe Systems), Sonata & Serenade Max (Agrquest Inc.), and Trilogy (Certis USA) to see how they compare against the conventional materials. ♦ A brief update will also be given about the insensitivity (resistance) of powdery mildew to many of the common fungicides.

The last topic will be an overview of a pumpkin seed snack food project funded by the Ohio Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Program. ♦ There are five pumpkin varieties in the trial being evaluated for seed quality, taste acceptability, disease resistance, and yield. Varieties producing both hulled and hull-less seeds are being evaluated. ♦ This project involves personnel from multiple entities including Extension, the IPM Program, Horticulture and Crop Science, Food Science, Agricultural and Environmental Economics, Innovative Farmers of Ohio, and two growers who have a plot on their farm. ♦

Growers will be moved from site to site via a hay wagon, and will be encouraged to walk around the plots at each stop and ask questions of the specialists. ♦ Also at the field day, Dr. Celeste Welty, Department of Entomology, will give a brief update on relevant and current insect management strategies for cucurbits, including systemic insecticide seed treatments.

Cost will be \$5 per person, and pre-registration will begin at 5:30 PM, with the tour starting promptly at 6:00 PM. ♦ Both CCA and PAT credits will be available, and refreshments will be served on the tour. ♦ The research station is located at 7721 South Charleston Pike, South Charleston, 3 miles south of I-70 on SR 41 or 3.5 miles northwest of South Charleston on SR 41 (Clark County, Ohio) [Click here for a map with directions.](#) ♦ ♦

