Healthy Seed for a Prosperous Future

WHEAT BLACK POINT

Recognize the black-pointed seed • Protect seed quality • Reduce losses



Black-pointed wheat kernels (typical symptom)



Black-pointed wheat kernels (another form)

What is Black Point?

Black point is a dark black-to-brown discoloration at the germ (embryo) end of wheat kernels. It is associated with fungal infection and/or unfavorable conditions during grain maturation and harvest. It mainly reduces grain and seed quality and may affect market value and germination.

Diagnosis

- Inspect a representative seed sample under good light.
- Look specifically at the germ/embryo end for a distinct black or dark-brown point.
- The darkened tip may occur while most of the kernel remains comparatively normal.
- Separate suspicious kernels for closer examination.
- If the cause or severity is uncertain, seek laboratory confirmation.



KEY SIGN: blackened tip at the embryo/germ end.

Management & Prevention

1. **Clean seed.** Use certified, clean, high-quality seed from a reliable source.
2. **Seed treatment.** Where recommended, use a wheat seed-treatment fungicide registered in Pakistan and follow the current label.
3. **Timely harvest.** Harvest at proper maturity; avoid unnecessary delay when wet/humid weather threatens grain quality.
4. **Dry grain.** Clean and dry grain properly before storage; avoid excess moisture.
5. **Sanitation.** Manage volunteer wheat and residues and maintain good field hygiene.
6. **Rotation.** Where practical, rotate wheat with non-host crops and avoid continuous wheat production.
7. **Seed quality.** Test germination and seed quality before planting and use seed lots meeting applicable standards.

Farmer DO'S

- ✓ Use clean, certified seed.
- ✓ Inspect seed before sowing.
- ✓ Use recommended seed treatment.
- ✓ Harvest on time and dry grain properly.
- ✓ Store clean, dry grain separately.



Farmer DON'TS

- ✗ Do not sow heavily affected or poor-quality seed.
- ✗ Do not mix affected seed with good seed.
- ✗ Do not store grain while damp.
- ✗ Do not use unregistered pesticides or exceed label rates.
- ✗ Do not assume every blackened kernel has the same cause.



Syed Jawad Ahmad Shah
Deputy Chief Scientist (Plant Pathologist) • Head, Plant Protection Division
Nuclear Institute for Food & Agriculture (NIFA), Peshawar, Pakistan
Phone: 091-2964069

HEALTHY SEED • HEALTHY CROP • PROSPEROUS FARMERS