

Frequently asked questions about Sphaerex

What is Sphaerex[®] fungicide?

Sphaerex is BASF's new head-timing cereal fungicide. It offers broad-spectrum protection against all the major cereal diseases in Western Canada, including fusarium head blight (FHB). Sphaerex has shown strong and consistent yield increase over untreated and best-in-class FHB management.

What makes Sphaerex unique?

Sphaerex is a unique combination of the two best active ingredients for FHB management. It provides growers with strong performance to help protect quality. These two actives have a proven track record for controlling FHB and major leaf diseases in Western Canada, which can lead to a significant yield increase.

What diseases can I manage with Sphaerex and on which crops can it be applied?

Sphaerex is registered in wheat (all types), barley, oat, rye and triticale. It is registered for suppression of FHB and control of the major leaf diseases in Western Canada. Please see label for more details.

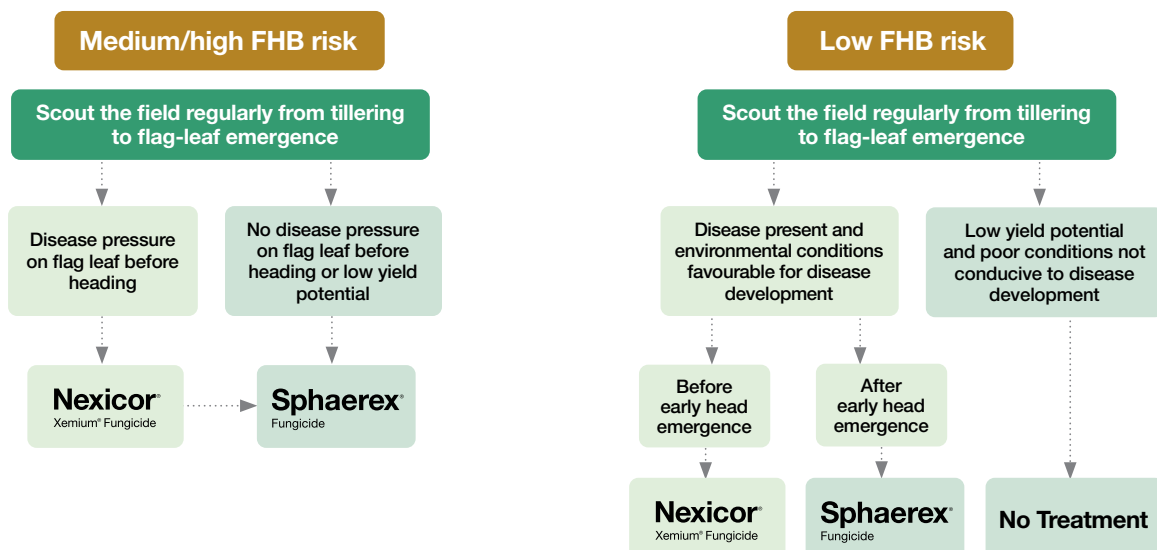
At what rate should Sphaerex be used?

For optimal results on FHB and flag-leaf disease management, BASF recommends using Sphaerex at the 80 acre/case rate.

There is a rate range on the Sphaerex label – how do I choose the right one for my cereal crop?

BASF recommends the use of the higher rate to guarantee maximum protection against leaf diseases and FHB. However, in low disease risk situations, the lower rate can be used and will provide a good level of control.

When would I apply Sphaerex vs another BASF cereal fungicide like Nexicor?



When should I apply Sphaerex?

Sphaerex can be applied preventatively from when 75% of main-stem cereal heads are fully emerged until the end of anthesis, when anthers have changed from yellow to white.

For optimal performance on FHB and optimal DON and FDK reduction, apply Sphaerex at mid-anthesis.

What temperature range or environmental conditions can Sphaerex be applied in?

For optimal results and crop safety, BASF recommends applying fungicides to actively growing plants between ~15° to 28° C. With that in mind, fungicide timing is critical to maximizing efficacy and protection against diseases. The application window for FHB is relatively short. As such, it may not be advisable to wait for daytime temperatures to decrease.

To avoid crop response, it's advisable to spray in the morning when temperatures are cooler or late in the day once it has cooled off, avoiding applications in daytime heat. If the spray window for fusarium head blight falls during extremely hot and humid conditions, it is possible that crop response may occur after treating with any fungicide, including Sphaerex.

The adjuvant contained in the fungicide formulation required for efficacy can lead to speckling or burning of upper leaves. BASF research and experience indicates that yield is rarely impacted by this response and the improvement on crop yield and quality preservation outweigh the concern. Growers must weigh the risk vs reward of applying a fungicide when conditions are not ideal.

Can I apply Sphaerex more than once per year if needed (should conditions for FHB persist)?

No – as per the PMRA approved label, Sphaerex may be applied only once per year.

Should I be concerned about FHB? How do I assess the risk on my farm?

FHB is the most impactful disease in Western Canada when it comes to revenue loss. FHB can impact the yield and grain quality, leading to downgrading and loss in revenue. It is important to understand the potential risk. Growers can refer to our product guide or our FHB management guide.

For more information, visit agsolutions.ca, talk to your BASF **AgSolutions**® Grower or Retail Representative or call **AgSolutions** Customer Care at 1-877-371-BASF (2273).

Always read and follow label directions.

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