

# WHEAT 2: PESTS

Evidence of insects or mites indicates poor storage and possible local hot spots.

To check for insects, the whole of a laboratory sample should be visibly inspected and sieved (typically using a 2mm mesh) and the grain passing through the mesh examined. This is especially important for grain going into storage.

For pest identification consult HGCA's *The grain storage guide*, second edition or go to:

[www.hgca.com/research/gsap/2nd%20edition/pest%20identification.pdf](http://www.hgca.com/research/gsap/2nd%20edition/pest%20identification.pdf)



When inspecting grain note any unusual smells. A sweet or minty smell indicates mites; musty and fishy smells indicate moulds; chemical smells, eg cleaning fluids and diesel, can also occur. If the grain is visibly mouldy or dusty, do not smell it. Moulds and grain dust can be harmful and cause respiratory problems.

## Insect damage

This example shows weevil damage. Eggs are laid within the grain. Endosperm is eaten by the larvae inside the kernels.

Evidence of insects indicates poor storage and possibly local hot spots.

Severe infestations (as this example) are unacceptable to processors.



## Orange blossom midge

Midges infest crops at flowering, laying eggs in empty florets.

The larvae attack immature grain, pierce the bran and inject enzymes into the grain. This can lead to water ingress and low Falling Numbers.

Black areas indicate additional fungal infection.



## Rodent droppings

Rodents directly damage grain and carry infection.

Rodents urinate on grain posing a food safety risk. Contaminated grain is unacceptable.



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