

WHEAT I: PHYSICAL DAMAGE

Broken grains

Exposed endosperm, usually due to aggressive handling, provides potential sites for mould infections.

Broken grains are removed during the cleaning process and hence milling potential is reduced due to a lower yield of clean, white flour from each tonne purchased.



Sprouted grains

Germinated grains, caused by wet harvest conditions, will have very high levels of *alpha*-amylase. Even a few in a bulk can reduce Hagberg Falling Number to unacceptable values resulting in rejection of milling wheat.



Lost embryos

Embryos may be damaged mechanically, or by mites (as shown in photograph) or insects.

Damage by mites or insects may indicate poor storage.



Burnt grains/heat damage

Heat damage arises from localised 'hot spots' or excessive temperatures during drying.

Grains can range in colour from bronze to dark brown (charred).

Such wheat is unacceptable. Over-dried grain will have lower levels of gluten or even none.



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