Crop scouting checklist

Farm _____ Field _____ Crop and stage _____ Date _____

Scout _____

Before you go

- [ ] Last pesticide application on this field checked: product and date. Do not enter before the re-entry interval on the label has passed.
- [ ] Last scouting report for this field read, and problems to recheck noted.
- [ ] Rain since the last visit noted. Heavy rain can kill young larvae, so fresh-looking damage may have no live pest behind it.
- [ ] Action threshold for this crop and stage written down, from your adviser or extension service.
- [ ] Kit: this sheet, a pen, a phone for photos and location, a hand lens, a knife, a trowel, a tape measure, sample bags and labels, stakes or flags, water.

Walking the field

- [ ] Whole field looked over first: patches, colour changes, gaps, and patterns that follow rows or machine passes.
- [ ] W or zigzag walked across the whole field, starting about 5 m in and keeping off the border rows.
- [ ] At least 5 stops made. More stops in a large or uneven field.
- [ ] Any part sown on another date, with another variety or managed differently scouted as a separate field.
- [ ] Field edges checked on their own if a pest usually comes in from the edge.

At each stop: 10 plants in a row

- [ ] Growth stage of the crop.
- [ ] Stand: gaps, missing or cut plants.
- [ ] Newest leaves and the whorl or growing point: holes, windowpanes, fresh frass, egg masses.
- [ ] Both sides of older leaves: spots, stripes, pustules, mould, insects.
- [ ] Stems and plant base: holes, rot, cut stems, insects hiding in soil or debris.
- [ ] Roots of any wilted or stunted plant: dug up with the trowel, not pulled.
- [ ] Weeds: which ones, how many, how big next to the crop.
- [ ] Natural enemies: ladybirds, spiders, dead or parasitised larvae.
- [ ] Count of affected plants out of 10 written in the table before moving on.

Before you leave

- [ ] Each problem photographed next to a healthy plant, photo numbers noted.
- [ ] Hot spots marked with a stake or a location pin.
- [ ] Anything you cannot name bagged and labelled (date, field, crop, what you saw) for your adviser.
- [ ] % of plants affected worked out and compared with the threshold.
- [ ] Decision written down: no action, check again, or call the adviser.
- [ ] Next visit set: at least once a week while the crop is young or a problem is building.

Count at each stop

Stop	Plants checked	Problem 1:	Problem 2:	Problem 3:	Notes
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
Total					
% affected					

% affected = affected plants ÷ plants checked × 100. Example: 6 affected out of 50 checked = 12%.

ZarSage Free checklist from zarsage.ai/resources/crop-scouting-checklist. Print, copy and share freely.