

Fungi

Basidiomycota

Ustilaginomycetes

Ustilaginales

*Ustilago*

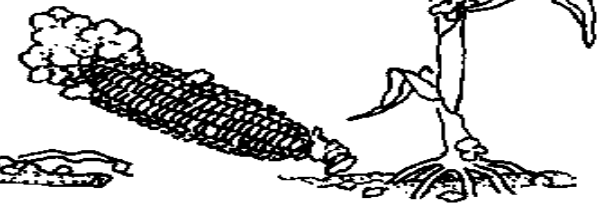
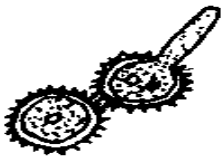
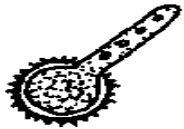
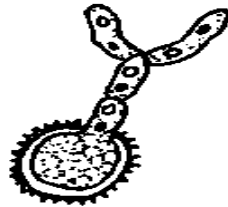


Loose smut is probably the most obvious of all wheat diseases. At flowering, all parts of the head and grain except the rachis (backbone) are replaced by black spore masses. This disease occurs throughout the world and reduces yields proportionate to the incidence of smutted heads. *Ustilago* is a genus of approximately 200 smut fungi parasitic on grasses. There is a large research community that works on *Ustilago maydis*.





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*U. avenae.* -- loose smut of oats

*U. esculenta* -- zizania smut

*U. hordei* -- covered smut (barley)

*U. maydis* -- corn smut

*U. nuda* -- loose smut of barley

*U. tritici* -- loose smut of wheat

