

VERSION: 1.0	DATE: 2001
PATHOGEN: <i>Ustilago maydis</i> / <i>Sphacelotheca reiliana</i> (syns: <i>Ustilago zaeae</i> / <i>Sporisorium holci-sorghii</i>)	
HOST: Maize (<i>Zea mays</i>)	
COMMON NAME: common/head smut	
METHOD: Mz 4.1 Washing test (McGee, 1988) (formerly Cf 4.1)	
METHOD CLASS: STANDARD (A)	
SAMPLE: 400 seeds	

PROCEDURE:

1. Wash 400 seeds in sterile water for 15 minutes in a shaker.
2. Centrifuge at 3000 rpm for 15 minutes.
3. Remove the pellet and examine with a light microscope to confirm the identity of teliospores as described by Ainsworth (1965a) for *U. maydis* and Ainsworth (1965b) for *S. reiliana*.

REFERENCES:

Ainsworth, G. C. (1965a) *Ustilago maydis*. CMI Descriptions of Pathogenic Fungi and Bacteria. No. 79. Wallingford, UK: CAB International.

Ainsworth, G. C. (1965b) *Sphacelotheca reiliana*. CMI Descriptions of Pathogenic Fungi and Bacteria. No. 73. International Mycological Institute: Kew, UK.

McGee, D.C., 1988. Maize diseases. A reference source for seed technologists. St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. APS Press. 149 pp.