

# Loose Smut

*(Ustilago nuda)*

## SYMPTOMS

Masses of olive-brown smut spores replace the entire head of plants with little development of floral bracts and awns. Smutted heads often emerge earlier than healthy heads. Spores are dislodged and scattered by wind when the delicate membranes surrounding them break. The fungus infects open flowers and becomes established in the embryo of the developing seed.

## HOSTS

All barley varieties are susceptible to one or more races.



## CONTROL

- Plant clean seed
- Apply fungicides



*Cross-section of healthy (left) and infected seed (right)*

# Loose Smut



**HEAD  
AND  
SEED**