



PLANT DISEASE AND INSECT ADVISORY

Entomology and Plant Pathology
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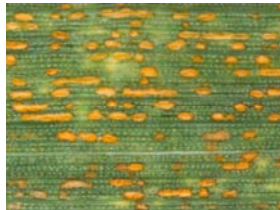
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Feb 7, 2007

Wheat Disease Update Bob Hunger, Extension Wheat Pathologist

The wheat disease situation in Oklahoma has been relatively quiet the last 4-6 weeks (or even more) because of the cold weather. It still surprises me that for the most part, the temperatures and weather we've had are just right at average rather than below average. That just goes to show how warm our winters have been for quite some time now.



On Feb 6, I found several small leaf rust pustules on susceptible varieties in the variety trial here at Stillwater. There also was an abundance of powdery mildew pustules on all of the susceptible varieties. Most of this powdery mildew was not quite the bright white color that indicates active mildew, but rather was the tannish-brown to grayish color that indicates older and less active mildew. Certainly as temperature increases, this mildew will become active again.

On Feb 5, Dr. Art Klatt (wheat geneticist/breeder at Oklahoma State) indicated that that Dr. Jackie Rudd (wheat breeder in Texas) had found stripe rust at McGregor and at College Station, TX. The stripe rust was relatively easy to find in the plots at both locations, but it is present in low severities. Leaf rust was also present at both locations, but was much harder to find and was at very low severities.

Others, for example, Roger Gribble and Mark Gregory (Area Agronomy Extension Specialists) have not seen anything striking disease-wise, with the wheat having been frost-burned by the weather for the last 4-6 weeks. Plus, the fields are extremely wet and muddy at this point in time.

Prior to the cold and icy weather of the last month of so, the lab did receive several samples from western Oklahoma from which various nematodes were isolated. Our thought on this is that although the nematodes found may have contributed to the symptoms and problems in these fields, it is unlikely that they were the sole cause of the problems. I'll write-up more about this in a future PDIDL Advisory.

Dr. Richard Grantham
Director, Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostic Laboratory

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