



# Pest e-alerts



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Vol. 9, No. 36

<http://entopl.okstate.edu/Pddl/>

Nov 11, 2010

## Wheat Disease Update

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No significant disease occurrence has yet been observed so far in the 2010 Oklahoma wheat crop. Low rainfall this fall explains this lack of disease. I have not observed any foliar diseases in wheat around Stillwater. Even trials planted in mid-September, which show significant growth, are completely clean of foliar disease. Calls made to northwestern OK/panhandle (Rick Kochenower; Area Research & Extension Specialist – Agronomy), north central OK (Roger Gribble; NW District Area Extension Agronomy Specialist), and southwestern OK (Terry Pitts; Area Extension

Specialist – IPM) all indicated that no foliar diseases have been observed or reported. Aphids have been seen, but in relatively low numbers. The Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostic Lab (PDIDL) has received several samples over the last 3-4 weeks. These samples had plants with discolored roots and/or sub-crown internodes. The fungal root rot pathogens *Bipolaris* and/or *Fusarium* were isolated from these samples. For more information on the root rots caused by these fungi, go to: <http://entopl.okstate.edu/ddd/diseases/rootrots.pdf>

**Recent updates from other states:** Kansas (Dr. Erick De Wolf, Extension Plant Pathologist, Kansas State University): I have been checking wheat in Kansas for symptoms of disease this fall. This included a survey of western Kansas in September and visit to a local farm here in Manhattan (Northeast, KS). These monitoring efforts indicate that leaf rust is common in volunteer wheat (some fields with 70-100% incidence). This is somewhat surprising given the dry conditions in some areas of the state. The incidence of leaf rust is much lower in field planted this fall.



It is normal for us to find leaf rust in Kansas this time of year. In most years the winter conditions will eliminate the disease in many areas of the state. The importance of these finds cannot be determined until spring.



Discoloration of the sub-crown internodes (SCIs) of wheat plants due to common root rot. Note creamy-white color of the SCI of the seedling on the left.



Wheat seedlings with rotted roots due to Fusarium root rot.

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