



Pest e-alerts



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Wheat Disease Update

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Oklahoma: Over the last week, I have been at field days in north central OK as well as in fields/trials around Stillwater. Leaf rust has reached levels of 65-80% around Stillwater where there has been more rainfall, but levels on susceptible varieties are not consistent from field to field. A few pustules of stem rust also were noted on stems of McNair 701 in a trap plot at Stillwater and have been sent to the CDL. Yesterday I attended a field day north of Ponca City (@ Kildare – about 50 miles north of Stillwater) and then drove straight west to Hwy 132 and south to Lahoma (about 15 miles west of Enid, OK). Leaf rust was at low incidence at all the stops I made. I did find a few plants with whiteheads that showed evidence of dryland (*Fusarium*) root rot, and an occasional symptom of septoria/tan spot. Most of the wheat was at soft to medium dough. Some fields looked decent while others were thin and obviously drought/heat stressed. Barley yellow dwarf was still the most prevalent disease, but I believe the discoloration associated with BYD must have been enhanced by the drought and/or heat and/or freeze and/or high winds we have experienced this spring.



Wheat leaf rust (left), wheat stem rust (center), and wheat tan spot (right).



Kansas (Dr. Erick De Wolf, Wheat Plant Pathologist, KSU): Disease scouting this week reveals that leaf rust is present at very low levels in parts of central Kansas. The most recent find came from McPherson County where leaf rust was found at low levels on the second leaf down within the canopy. The incidence of leaf rust was still less than 5%. Stripe rust was also reported By Joe Martin, KSU wheat breeder, in Ellis County near

Hays Kansas (Central, KS) this week. Clayton Seaman, who works with Joe, reports finding only a single lesion in the mid canopy at this location. Weather conditions remain dry in most areas of the state with severe drought in western Kansas. Wheat in north central Kansas has been heading and flowering this week and some fields in the south are well into the grain filling stages of growth. The rust diseases may increase near the end of the season, but are not expected to be a major factor in most fields this year.

Arkansas (Dr. Gene Milus, Small Grains Pathologist, U of A): Wheat harvest has started in southern Arkansas. The earliest varieties in northeast Arkansas are just beginning to mature. Wheat that did not get flooded looks very good. Unfortunately, some fields are still underwater and lost. In northeast Arkansas, leaf rust is at trace levels in some varieties and not detected in most varieties. Stem rust was found in one plot at the experiment station at Keiser. Stripe rust is still hanging on and producing a few spores. Stagonospora leaf blotch was the most serious disease at Keiser. Plots of some varieties were rated 98%



of the foliage diseased. Head blight was easy to find in almost every plot, but incidence was only 1 out of 200 or 300 heads on average. Only low levels of *Septoria tritici* blotch.

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