



Pest e-alerts



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Wheat Disease Update

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Scouting around Stillwater this last week revealed little in the way of foliar diseases. In the early planted (20-Sep-2011) variety demo strips I found a few powdery mildew pustules on low leaves, but very few, very small, and, very “old” looking. In contrast to a couple weeks ago, I found no rust pustules. I also found many aphids (mostly BCO aphids I think) in these early planted strips along with an abundance of purpling and yellowing. Some of that discoloration has resulted from cold, but much of it I would guess is barley yellow dwarf. Samples will be collected and tested this week for confirmation. In contrast to the early planted strips, the late planted (14-Oct-2011) demo strips are much shorter and greener and without disease or aphids.

Arkansas Dr. Gene Milus (Small Grains Pathologist, University of Arkansas), 24-Jan: “Extension personnel found one area with stripe rust in a wheat field in eastern Arkansas. The area is about the size of a small car. Wheat is only in tillering stage, so it is not a typical hot spot. We are trying to determine the variety. This is a record for the earliest stripe rust ever reported in Arkansas. We have had a very mild winter so far, and stripe rust has 4 more months to develop.”



Dr. Jason Kelley (Wheat & Feed Grains Extension Agronomist, University of Arkansas) 27-Jan: Wheat stripe rust has been found in Arkansas. On January 20, 2012, Richard Klerk, County Extension Agent in Cross Co. in northeast Arkansas, found stripe rust in a field of an experimental wheat variety that was planted October 6th.

This is approximately two months earlier than stripe rust has been found in Arkansas during previous seasons and appears to be the first report of stripe rust east of the Rocky Mountains in 2012. The affected area is about the size of a small car and plants contain numerous leaves with stripe rust on them. This stripe rust likely was initiated from a single spore that blew into the field shortly after emergence last fall. The mild winter appears to have been ideal for several cycles of sporulation and re-infection. This early disease development increases the risk of a stripe rust epidemic this season.

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