



Pest e-alerts



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Wheat Disease Update

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Stem rust was found in Oklahoma last week by Dr. Art Klatt (OSU Wheat Geneticist/Breeder). He found it on stems of entries in one of his trials near Stillwater, OK. My first impression when I saw the stems was that it was just saprophytic growth on the stem as the stems were all dead. However, examination with the stereoscope showed that much of this discoloration actually was stem rust pustules just starting to erupt through the wall. There were many places where I could lift up the outer wall/epidermis of the stem and directly underneath that wall were orange urediniospores. In the few pustules that had erupted, teliospores could be found as well. This is confirmation that although stem rust will infect wheat in Oklahoma, our wheat typically finishes sufficiently early so that stem rust is not a concern.



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

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