

Wheat Newsletter

March 22, 2005

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In the South Texas and the Blacklands, the flag-leaf is beginning to emerge (Feekes 8 growth stage) on some early planted wheat and early maturing varieties. The Concho Valley and Rolling Plains will not be too far behind, especially if the weather remains warm. Considering the heavy Leaf Rust and Stripe Rust pressure this year, producers will need to make a decision relatively quickly regarding the application of a fungicide. The labeled fungicides and the expected control were described in the previous Newsletter (3/3/05). See attached. Newsletters and other wheat related information can also be located at <http://croptesting.tamu.edu/smallgrains/index.htm>

I visited viewed several HRWW and SRWW fields with Jackie Rudd, TAMU Wheat Breeder, and Jim Swart, IPM agent in Hunt and Collin counties. Additionally, Jackie Rudd viewed wheat breeding nurseries across the state and provided much of the information below.

The Panhandle wheat is in good condition and has good moisture. Some of the early planted wheat began jointing a couple of weeks ago. It does not appear that the freezing temperatures (low 20's) last week caused any major freeze damage. There are reports of some Septoria leaf blotch and low levels of Leaf Rust in various Panhandle fields. The reports of Wheat Streak and High Plains virus have been low this year.

In the Rolling Plains and Concho Valley of Texas, moderate levels of Leaf and Stripe Rust were present. In most cases the wheat crop seemed to have jointed (first hollow stem) a 7-10 days earlier this year. With good soil moisture conditions continuing and good yield potential, many producers have the potential for above average yields. With good yield potential and moderate Leaf and Stripe Rust pressure, producers will need to consider their disease management options.

In the Northern Blacklands and Northeast Texas, Stripe Rust is more prevalent than Leaf Rust. There are several varieties of HRW and SRW wheat that are maintaining their resistance to Stripe Rust. However, highly susceptible varieties have high levels of Stripe Rust. The growth stage of the wheat crop is highly variable due to a wide planting date. Some early planted wheat has two joints visible (Feekes 7 growth stage). The Stripe Rust ratings for several SRWW varieties, including P25R47, P25R57, Agri-Pro Mason, and Agri-Pro Crawford, were low. Agri-Pro Cutter and Jagalene seem to be holding up to the Stripe Rust pressure, but have become very susceptible to Leaf Rust.

In the Southern Blacklands, there continues to be a lot of Leaf Rust pressure in most susceptible wheat varieties. Stripe Rust is definitely present, but to a much lesser degree than Leaf Rust. The wheat crop still has good yield potential but will depend on the severity of the foliar diseases as flowering and grain fill occurs.



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In South Texas, the wheat crop looks good, but with moderately high levels of foliar diseases, including Leaf Rust, Stripe Rust, and some Powdery mildew. Due to limited varietal resistance to Leaf Rust, the producers will need to consider their disease management options.

If you have any questions or corrections regarding this Newsletter, please let me know.

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