

PLANT DISEASE AND INSECT ADVISORY



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Vol. 5, No.10

Website: <http://entopl.okstate.edu/Pddl/advisory.htm>

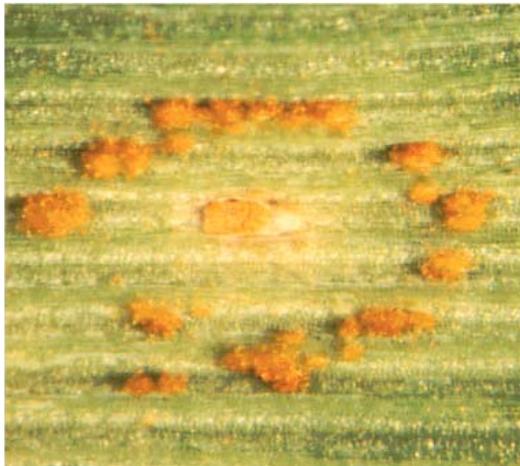
May 15, 2006

Wheat Disease and Insect Pest Update

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Diseases:



During this past week I found low to moderate levels of **leaf rust** on plant in plots located near Stillwater. Generally these levels were in the 25S - 40S range, but occurred in small areas within the plots. This is basically the same as observed by Dr. Art Klatt (OSU Wheat Breeder) who reported, "We found leaf rust in our EFAW nurseries yesterday. Low levels of infection were found throughout the field on susceptible materials, and we found 20-30S on a few leaves. The pustules looked new and I would be surprised if the infection levels do not increase in the next 10-14 days." Hence, it appears as though the leaf rust that will occur in Oklahoma this year will be too late to cause significant losses. On trips to southern and central Oklahoma leaf rust also was observed, but this was limited to scattered pustules on plants that were close to having no green leaf tissue. For the southern part of the state the wheat has matured to the point that leaf rust will not be a factor. Similarly, on May 2, Dr. Brett Carver (OSU Wheat Breeder) reported leaf rust in the 15-30S range on susceptible varieties at a trial near Lahoma, OK, but again, the rust was occurring in foci within plots rather than across the entire plot. However, wheat in this part of the state still has several green leaves. Thus, although rust may develop to fairly high levels in northern and northwestern OK, the wheat is mostly at or a little beyond the milk stage so the impact should be minimal.

Barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) still is the most common disease present in plots and fields I have visited during this past week, which is not surprising given the length of time that aphids were present over the state this past winter and spring.

Wheat streak mosaic virus and **high plains virus** continue to be reported from Oklahoma with samples coming in from around Tonkawa as well as northwestern OK.

Here are some reports from other states:

Kansas (Dr. Doug Jardine, Professor, Kansas State University): I spent Tuesday afternoon surveying wheat fields and variety plots in north central Kansas. The wheat in general is as healthy as I have ever seen it at this time of year. I found absolutely zero rust pustules (leaf or stripe). An occasional field had a moderate amount of powdery mildew active in the lower canopy but nothing approaching the flag leaf. There were very low incidences of tan spot and/or speckled leaf blotch in a few fields. In most fields you could find symptoms of barley yellow dwarf and/or wheat streak mosaic but incidences were generally less than 10%. Some of the fields were very short due to earlier drought but others looked quite good. Most wheat was fully headed and a few of the more advanced fields were starting to flower.

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Robert E. Whitson, VP, Dean, and Director for Agricultural Programs, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Dean of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.