Plant Disease and Insect Advisory

Entomology and Plant Pathology
Oklahoma State University
127 Noble Research Center
Stillwater, OK 74078

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Wheat Disease Update

Bob Hunger, Extension Wheat Pathologist

Wheat Soilborne Mosaic Virus (WSBMV) & Wheat Spindle Streak Mosaic Virus (WSSMV): WSBMV and WSSMV symptoms are just starting to be clearly expressed in wheat in test plots around Stillwater. With the milder temperatures this past week, the wheat has started to grow and "green-up" considerably, so the symptoms of these two diseases should begin to become more and more apparent in susceptible varieties.

Wheat foliar diseases: Yesterday I did not find any leaf rust in any of the susceptible varieties in Dr. Jeff Edwards (Wheat Extension Agronomist at Oklahoma State University) variety-demonstration here at Stillwater. In contrast, actively sporulating powdery mildew was heavy on the lower leaves of susceptible varieties.

Here are a few additional foliar disease reports I received today:

OKLAHOMA – 01 Mar 2007 (Dr. Brett Carver; Wheat Breeder, Oklahoma State University) :
Still no rust showing up in SW OK, based on a breeder-plot tour from El Reno to Ft. Cobb to Hobart today. Nothing to get excited about, save for some old powdery mildew at Lahoma (north central Oklahoma). Early risers are coming out, while late breakers are still laying low.

TEXAS – 28 Feb 2007 (Dr. Dave Worrall; Agripro Wheat Breeder) :
Ross visited Castroville and Luling last week. He didn't find any rust at Castroville but found really heavy seedling rust on susceptibles at Luling. He couldn't find any stripe rust at either of the locations or at Hillsboro. We have a little bit of leaf rust at Lockett but you really have to search to find any active pustules. I looked at commercial fields in southwest Oklahoma last week and found about the same level of leaf rust there as wheat we are seeing here. Now that it's warming up, maybe things will start to pop.

LOUISIANA (28 Feb 2007 – Dr. Stephen Harrison; Plant Breeder; Wheat, Oat & Coastal Plants Breeding, LSU AgCenter Agronomy & Envtl Mgt Dept):
Dr. Boyd Padgett (LSU AgCenter plant pathologist) visited the variety trial location in Alexandria, LA this morning. Boyd reports that there is stripe rust present at low levels in the variety trials and noted that he observed stripe rust on AGS 2000. AGS 2000 has some stripe rust resistance but is quite susceptible to some races. It had 80% stripe rust at Winnsboro in 2005, the last year stripe rust was a major problem. This may indicate that a virulent race is present in the state (or may not). Our stripe rust epidemics usually develop the first half of March and peak by early April when temperatures surpass the optimum for stripe rust development. Growers, consultants and agents should scout wheat fields for the presence of stripe rust and be prepared to apply fungicides if warranted.

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

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