



PLANT DISEASE AND INSECT ADVISORY

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Wheat Disease Update Bob Hunger, Extension Wheat Pathologist

Below is a summary of wheat disease observations made over the last couple of days from Oklahoma and a few other states. As you can tell from reading the observations below, leaf rust is now being found in Texas and in Oklahoma. With the warming temperatures, wind and rainfall that occurred over the last week and with the same predicted for the next week, I would expect leaf rust incidence and severity to begin to increase significantly especially on susceptible varieties.

Oklahoma; April 15th (Bob Hunger/Stephanie Rogers): We traveled from Stillwater to Union City/Minco (just southwest of Oklahoma City) to Apache (north of Lawton) and then north to Watonga, Kingfisher and Hennessey. Primarily we stopped at variety trials. Wheat was mostly all at GS 9 (flag leaf fully emerged), but getting close to GS 10 (boot). At Apache, heads of Jagger were beginning to emerge from the boot. At all locations we found scattered pustules of **leaf rust** in Jagger and Jagalene, with the greatest incidence at Minco where rust was at about a 10-20% severity on the lower leaves up to about the F-2 leaf (second leaf under the flag leaf). **Powdery mildew** also was present at all locations, but with the exception of one spot in a field near Apache, the severity was light. Some **septoria** was found on lower leaves in a plot just east of Union City, and a field severely infected with **wheat streak mosaic virus** was found east of Kingfisher. Symptoms of **barley yellow dwarf** and mummified/parasitized aphids were observed at many of the locations, but seemed to be primarily in earlier planted wheat.



Oklahoma; April 15th (Dr. Art Klatt, Wheat breeder/geneticist, Oklahoma State University): Dr. Art Klatt walked his plots around Stillwater on April 15th, and reported seeing **leaf rust** and **powdery mildew** both on the increase. He saw some flecking on flag leaves and heavy flecking and some pustules on the leaf just below the flag leaf. He observed this on susceptible varieties, but also saw some flecking on Overley and OK Bullet.

Texas; April 14th (Rex Herrington, Research Associate, Texas A&M, College Station, TX):

Wheat **leaf rust** is increasing quickly, and moving up to the flag leaves. Most of the wheat lines are fully headed also. Some farmers in the area have sprayed for wheat LR over the last two weeks. We have a heavy infection of **BYDV** in both wheat and oats at College Station. **Powdery mildew** is moderate on wheat.



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