



Pest e-alerts



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Wheat Disease Update

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Oklahoma: Mark Gregory (Southwest Area Extension Agronomy Specialist) reported three separate occurrences of common bunt (stinking smut – Fig 1) in Washita, Roger Mills, and Custer counties in west-central Oklahoma. In at least one of the cases, the smut was sufficiently severe to have the wheat rejected by the elevator. This indicates the importance of planting wheat seed treated with a fungicide that controls the smuts/bunts.



A sample of wheat from northeastern Oklahoma near Afton showed darkening of the head/glumes. Microscopic examination revealed pycnidial (spore-bearing) structures on the glumes indicative of either *Stagonospora* or *Septoria* (Fig 2). Darkened heads such as this were observed across Oklahoma this season. Some of these (like this one) probably were due to *Stagonospora*/*Septoria*, but others may have been related to black chaff (a bacterial disease) or pseudo-black chaff, which is a genetic condition. My impression is that the occurrence of any of these was sporadic and not severe.



Fig 1. Common bunt - R. M. Hunger - Oklahoma State University



Fig 2. Pycnidia of Stagonospora/Septoria on wheat glume



Nebraska (Dr. Stephen Wegulo, Plant Pathologist, UNL): P. Stephen Baenziger, UNL small grains breeder, and his crew found stem rust on wheat and barley at Havelock Farm in Lincoln, Lancaster County on June 13. Leaf rust was first seen on wheat in the same field on June 3. On June 10, Emmanuel Byamukama, post-doctoral research associate, and I surveyed fields in the southern tier of counties from Chase County in southwest Nebraska to Gage County in southeast Nebraska. We

found leaf rust at low levels in most fields surveyed. One field in Adams County in south central Nebraska had severe levels of stripe rust in pockets scattered throughout the field. We found Fusarium head blight (scab) in isolated fields. In one field in Chase County, scab was scattered randomly throughout the field. However, incidence was much higher in a strip in in the southern part of the field, next to a dirt road. I am still trying to figure out the reason for this field pattern of scab. Wheat in the majority of fields in the southern half of the state is past the flowering growth stage.

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