



Pest e-alerts



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Wheat Disease Update

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On Friday (24-Feb), I and Brian Olson (Plant Pathology A&P) examined trials and fields of wheat around OSU in Stillwater. No leaf rust was found in any of these locations. Some powdery mildew was found in varieties considered susceptible. Given the conditions of temperature and humidity in the low, thick canopy, I would expect this disease to increase over the next few weeks. The most prevalent disease observed was barley yellow dwarf (BYD), which was present in nearly all of the trials/plots examined. In wheat planted later (mid to late October) the incidence of BYD was the lowest; in earlier planted wheat (September), not only were symptoms of BYD more prevalent, but aphids (bird cherry oat aphids) were numerous. Symptoms of wheat soilborne mosaic (WSBM) and wheat spindle streak mosaic (WSSM) were not striking in my WSBM/WSSM nursery.

Texas Dr. Amir Ibrahim (Assoc. Prof, Small Grains Breeding and Genetics, Texas A&M), 24-Feb: "We have seen significant leaf rust in the lower canopies of TAM 110 and Jagalene in College Station earlier this week. No stripe rust up to date. I will go to Castroville next week and will keep you updated."



Dr. Jackie Rudd (Professor and Wheat Breeder, Texas Agrilife Res & Ext Center at Amarillo), 24-Feb: "The wheat crop around Amarillo is holding on. Irrigated looks fair to good, dryland looks poor to fair. It is greening up but hopefully still 2 -3 weeks away from hollow stem. I was out in the Bushland nurseries today and did not see any obvious disease. Jason Baker will be going to Vernon/Wichita Falls area next week and will let us know what he

sees. The crop there is a little ahead of schedule and for the most part looks pretty good. It would not surprise me for him to report a little leaf rust, but as Amir said there have not been any stripe rust reports to my knowledge.”



Barley yellow dwarf (left) and powdery mildew (right) on wheat.

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

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