

Issued by:

#### **Cereal Disease Laboratory**

U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service 1551 Lindig St, University of Minnesota St. Paul, MN 55108-6052 (612) 625-6299 FAX (651) 649-5054 oluseyi.fajolu@usda.gov For the latest cereal rust news from the field, subscribe to the cereal-rust-survey listserv. To subscribe, please visit:

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- Wheat stem rust was only confirmed in Indiana.
- Wheat leaf rust was severe in southern states, but the disease ranged from low to high in other states where it was reported.
- Wheat stripe rust was generally low in most states but reached severe levels in Georgia and the Pacific Northwest.
- Oat stem rust was severe in Texas but mostly low in other states.
- Oat crown rust was severe in both research plots and production fields.
- Barley leaf rust was reported in six states, with variable incidence and severity.
- Barley stripe rust was reported only in Washington, where disease levels were high.
- Rye leaf rust was observed in five states, with variability in incidence and severity across locations.
- Thank you to all our cooperators for rust reports and collections!

For original, detailed reports from our cooperators and CDL staff, please visit the <u>Cereal Rust Situation</u> (CRS) reports page on the <u>CDL website</u>.

Wheat stem rust. Wheat stem rust was only confirmed in variety trials at the Purdue University Agricultural Center for Research and Education near West Lafayette, Indiana. Disease severity reached 10%, with 1% incidence observed. The sample was identified as race QFCSC, the dominant wheat stem rust race currently in the United States.

Wheat leaf rust. Wheat leaf rust was first detected in Texas in February and reached severe levels in several southern states. Mississippi, in particular, experienced record-high levels of the disease this year. In the Midwest, the incidence and severity of leaf rust were generally low and lower than normal in some areas. Elsewhere, disease levels varied widely. Overall, wheat leaf rust was reported in 22 states across the U.S. in 2025: Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, New York, California, and Washington.

Texas – Low levels of wheat leaf rust were first observed on February 26 in research plots at College Station. By the first week of March, the disease had been reported in nurseries near Castroville, McGregor, and Uvalde. During an early April survey, high levels of leaf rust were observed in sentinel plots at Weslaco and Cruz Calle. Heavy rains earlier in the month caused flooding-related crop damage, which limited rust collections. At the time of the survey, the wheat crop was at the late milking stage. In the late April survey, severe wheat leaf rust pressure was observed on

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several varieties in the experimental plots at the Uvalde and Castroville nurseries. Disease incidence was predominantly 100%, with severity ranging from 50 to 100%, although a few varieties showed a trace to 30% severity.

Louisiana – In early March, widespread leaf rust was observed in field trials, particularly on the spreader rows of Pioneer 26R41 at the Louisiana State University research station in Baton Rouge. By April 9, disease severity ranged from trace to 60% on Pioneer 26R41, AGS3022, WSG3354, and Delta Grow 1900, with high incidence reported across multiple varieties. At the research station in Crowley, wheat leaf rust had reached 100% incidence and 90% severity.

Mississippi – Wheat leaf rust was unusually severe on susceptible cultivars in all official variety trial locations, including Beaumont (southeastern MS), Raymond (central MS), Brooksville, and Starkville (east-central MS), during visits in late April. The disease incidence was higher in southern fields compared to those in the eastern part of the state. Before 2025, leaf rust had rarely been a concern in Mississippi. Wheat across the state had passed the flowering stage, with most commercial fields in the dough stage.

Alabama – In the Brewton, Escambia County wheat nursery, leaf rust severity and incidence ranged from 20% to 80% on most varieties. In contrast, the variety Jamestown and a few breeding lines showed low disease levels. Leaf rust levels in nurseries at Elmore, Baldwin, and Autauga counties were generally lower, with severity and incidence ranging from 1% to 20%. A total of 15 samples from the four counties were submitted to the Cereal Disease Laboratory in April. At the time of sampling, wheat was at the flowering growth stage.

*Georgia* – Wheat leaf rust was confirmed in commercial fields in Colquitt, Grady, and Mitchell counties in mid-April. There was no report on disease progression.

South Carolina – In early May, a sample of wheat leaf rust collected from the cultivar Saluda in Florence County was submitted to the Cereal Disease Laboratory. At the time of collection, disease severity was moderate, and incidence was high.

*North Carolina* – Wheat leaf rust levels were generally low throughout the state. Little to no rust appeared in variety trials in Lenoir, Beaufort, Robeson, and Wake counties, except for a few individual wheat lines that showed high infection levels. Dr. Cowger regarded these lines as outliers.

Virginia – Heavy leaf rust pressure was observed in eastern Virginia, particularly in counties along the Eastern Shore. Thirteen wheat leaf rust samples from Richmond, Nottoway, and Accomack counties were received at the Cereal Disease Laboratory during the third week of May. The wheat crop was at the mealy ripe growth stage at the time of sample collection.

Kentucky – Wheat leaf rust was detected at low incidence and severity on a soft red winter wheat cultivar in Calloway County on April 30. This marks the earliest appearance of leaf rust in the Kentucky growing season over the past 10 years. While fungicides were applied primarily for Fusarium head blight management, these treatments also protect against leaf rust and other foliar diseases. The wheat crop across the state was at or slightly beyond Feekes growth stage 10.51.

Oklahoma – Low levels of wheat leaf rust were reported in Payne, Blaine, Tillman, and Garfield counties in late April and early May. By May 12, Dr. Brett Carver reported high leaf rust pressure in Chickasha (Grady County). As of the



second week of May, most wheat fields in Oklahoma had progressed beyond the flowering stage, which limits the effectiveness of fungicide applications. Severe leaf rust was also observed in a fungicide trial at Stillwater (Payne County). During a survey conducted by Cereal Disease Laboratory staff from May 20–22 across Oklahoma State University research fields in Grady, Kingfisher, Payne, Caddo, and Cotton counties, leaf rust was observed at all locations, with severity ranging from low to high. In Grady County, some varieties exhibited 80 to 100% severity. Leaf rust was also confirmed in Washita County.

Kansas – As part of the May 20 wheat survey, Kansas State University Research Fields in Ellis and Riley counties were examined. Only a trace of wheat leaf rust was observed in a field in Ellis County, while fields in Riley County were free of rust. By early June, wheat leaf rust had been reported in multiple locations across the state, though severity and incidence were lower than normal. The wheat crop ranged from milk to dough stages.

Nebraska – The first report of wheat leaf rust was made on June 5 at Havelock Research Farm in Lancaster County. During the Cereal Disease Laboratory survey, wheat state trials, growers' fields, University of Nebraska research farms, USDA-ARS plots, and other cereal fields were scouted. Leaf rust reached up to 50% severity and incidence in bread wheat plots and up to 25% in durum plots in Saunders County. Disease levels in trials in Lancaster County were about 25% severity and 20% incidence. In Jefferson and Lincoln counties, leaf rust levels were approximately 5% severity and incidence in wheat trials and growers' fields, while in Perkins and Cheyenne counties, only 2% severity and incidence were observed. No rust was detected in the wheat state trials and growers' fields visited in Webster, Furnas, and Hitchcock counties. The wheat crop was at or approaching heading growth stages.

South Dakota – Low levels of wheat leaf rust were observed in various trials at the South Dakota State University research fields in Aurora (Brookings County). No leaf rust was found in the durum plots. At the Volga location, most wheat yield and research plots had been treated with fungicide. When present, leaf rust ranged from low to moderate in severity and incidence. Disease levels did not differ significantly between treated and untreated plots, and symptoms were relatively easy to find.

North Dakota – During a cereal rust survey in the last week of July at the North Dakota State University wheat variety testing site in Thompson (Grand Forks County), many plots were free of rust, while others showed wheat leaf rust severity and incidence ranging from trace to high levels. At the NDSU variety testing site in Casselton (Cass County), leaf rust severity ranged from trace to approximately 10%, with incidence from low to around 25%. Collections from different varieties were submitted to the Cereal Disease Laboratory.

*Minnesota* — On July 14 at the University of Minnesota Southern Research Centers, no wheat leaf rust was found in the research plots in Waseca County (south-central Minnesota), although most trials received fungicide treatment. In Redwood County (southwest MN), trace to low levels of leaf rust were detected on a few varieties, including CP3099A, LCS Hammer AX, and MN22071-4. On July 29, research plots and growers' fields in Otter Tail, Norman, and Sherburne counties were surveyed, and no rust was found.

*Illinois* – At the University of Illinois, Champaign, research fields, border rows showed up to 75% incidence and severity. Trial entries exhibited low levels of rust. A similar situation was observed in a grower's field in Clark County. The wheat was at the soft to early hard dough stages.

Indiana – Low levels of leaf rust were observed in the wheat variety trials at the Purdue University Agricultural Center for Research and Education site near West Lafayette. Susceptible border rows showed up to 90% severity and 100% incidence. In growers' fields across Cass, Carroll, and Miami counties, leaf rust severity averaged around 20%, though lower where fungicides were applied. Growth stages ranged from Feekes 11.1 to 11.2.



Ohio – At the Ohio State University Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, wheat leaf rust incidence was approximately 50%, with low severity except in border rows, where severity reached 70%. Most growers' fields in Shelby, Auglaize, and Hancock counties had been treated with fungicides, and rust was primarily observed along field peripheries.

Maryland – On May 29, early wheat leaf rust infection was reported in the sentinel plots at Fort Detrick in Frederick County. In June, the Cereal Disease Laboratory received nine leaf rust samples from various susceptible cultivars.

*New York* – Only trace levels of leaf rust were observed in spring wheat and low levels in winter spelt at nurseries in Ithaca. Spring wheat was at post-anthesis during the observation period.

*California* – The Cereal Disease Laboratory received two leaf rust collections on Sonora and Yecora Rojo cultivars from the University of California research trials in Ventura County.

*Washington* – In Skagit County, up to 60% severity and 80% incidence of wheat leaf rust were recorded on variety Temple at the Mount Vernon nurseries. Other varieties had lower disease levels. Also, low to moderate levels of leaf rust were reported in Whitman County. Samples from these counties were submitted to the Cereal Disease Laboratory.

Wheat leaf rust collection map. Please visit: <u>usdaars.maps.arcgis.com</u>

### Wheat cultivar *Lr* gene postulation database.

*Please visit*: Leaf rust resistance gene postulation in current U.S. wheat cultivars

Wheat stripe rust. Wheat stripe rust was severe in Georgia and the Pacific Northwest but generally low in the Great Plains. The disease was limited during the recently completed growing season compared to last year. In 2024, widespread stripe rust was reported in 31 states, but only in 16 states in 2025, and most of these states reported low disease levels.

Georgia – Several county agents reported early, sporadic, yet severe occurrences of stripe rust in commercial wheat fields across southwest Georgia, including Colquitt, Grady, Lowndes, Mitchell, and Sumter counties. Stripe rust was also observed on susceptible experimental and commercial varieties in trials conducted at the University of Georgia research station in Plains (Sumter County).

*Texas* – Low levels of wheat stripe rust were observed in College Station and north of Waco (McLennan County) on February 26. There was no report on disease progression.

Oklahoma – As of late April and early May, stripe rust incidence and severity were low across the state. Confirmed cases were reported in Payne, Cotton, Garfield, Caddo, Canadian, Kingfisher, Kay, Grady, and Woods counties.

Kansas – The first report of wheat stripe rust in Kansas was made on April 28 in Ford County, located in southwest Kansas, where a single lesion was found in the middle canopy of WB Grainfield, which is moderately susceptible to stripe rust. Stripe rust was absent from most wheat fields surveyed through a coordinated effort by the Kansas State University extension personnel, county agents, and crop consultants. The wheat crop in southeast Kansas was at the boot and heading stages of development. By May 13, stripe rust had been reported in Cherokee, Labette, Barton, Kingman, Stafford, and Ness counties. During a May 20 survey, low levels of wheat stripe rust were detected in experimental fields in Ellis and Riley counties. By the end of May, wheat stripe rust had been confirmed in 23 counties. Overall incidence and severity were low; only about 5% of flag leaves showed symptoms.



Nebraska – The first report of wheat stripe rust in Nebraska was recorded on May 22 in a commercial field in Jefferson County, situated in the southeastern part of the state. Only a single leaf with moderate stripe rust pustules was observed. At that time, the wheat crop in the region ranged from the flowering to the soft dough stages. By May 29, farther northeast in Saunders County, stripe rust hotspots were observed in research plots planted with the variety Jagalene at Mead. At this site, disease incidence was moderate, with severity levels ranging from trace to high. In contrast, the research field in Lincoln (Lancaster County) showed only trace levels of stripe rust incidence and low to moderate severity. During a mid-June survey, up to 30% incidence and severity of stripe rust were observed in the wheat state trials and other research plots in Lancaster County. Up to 20% severity in both bread and durum trials at Saunders County, with disease advancing to the telial stage. Approximately 10% severity and 5% incidence of stripe rust were detected in wheat trials in Cheyenne County. Stripe rust was confirmed in 14 counties in the 2025 growing season.

*Wisconsin* – Wheat stripe rust was reported in Columbia County.

Michigan – Wheat stripe rust was first reported in Kalamazoo County on May 14 and subsequently confirmed in Jackson County on May 27.

*Indiana* – Stripe rust was observed in Tippecanoe County on June 2.

Delaware – Wheat stripe rust was reported in Sussex County.

*Idaho* – As of early June, stripe rust was present in northern Idaho but had not been detected in the south.

Montana – Stripe rust was first observed on susceptible varieties Brawl CL Plus and Decade on June 6 at the Montana State University Lutz Farm in Gallatin County (southwestern Montana). The disease incidence was about 10% and severity was up to 30%; severity on flag leaves of susceptible varieties ranged from 25-33%, with greater severity on the penultimate leaves. The varieties ranged from Feekes 10.1 to 10.4 growth stages. By June 12, low levels of stripe rust were detected in winter wheat nurseries at the Northwestern Agricultural Research Center (Flathead County) and at the Arthur H. Post Research Farm (Gallatin County). Winter wheat nurseries in central, southern, and eastern Montana were free of stripe rust.

Oregon – On April 17, early stripe rust infection was observed on winter wheat in a disease monitoring nursery at Hermiston in Umatilla County. By June, stripe rust severity had reached 90 to 100% on susceptible winter wheat varieties within the nursery.

Washington – Wheat fields in Whitman, Adams, Lincoln, Franklin, and Walla Counties, scouted on March 4, were in good condition, with no stripe rust detected. This contrasts with the 2024 growing season, when stripe rust was observed in several fields by the end of February. On April 9, stripe rust was confirmed in the winter nursery at Walla Walla. Overall, disease levels were low compared to the same time last year. By May 6, low levels of stripe rust were observed on susceptible checks in all experimental fields at the Palouse Conservation Field Station, the Washington State University Research Farm, and Spillman Farm, all located in Whitman County. At the time of observation, *Puccinia striiformis* had just begun to produce spores, consistent with typical stripe rust development timing in the Palouse region. On May 9, low incidence and severity of stripe rust were reported in commercial winter wheat fields in Franklin County. Pustules of *P. striiformis* were readily observed in fields planted with the varieties Piranha CL+ and Nova AX, which carry high-temperature adult-plant resistance, prompting fungicide applications for disease control. Of the 10 growers' fields visited in Franklin and Adams counties, three had low levels of stripe rust. By June 18, stripe rust had developed to 90–100% severity on susceptible winter wheat varieties at all winter nursery locations, including Mount Vernon, Central Ferry, Walla Walla, Lind, and Pullman. At Spillman Farm, susceptible checks reached up to 60% severity. According to Dr. Xianming Chen, the most popular varieties responded similarly to previous years. However, the variety Bobtail showed differing reactions to stripe rust across

nurseries—even at the same locations—suggesting the use of two seed sources: one highly resistant and the other moderately susceptible. Only trace levels of stripe rust were observed in both winter and spring commercial fields in Adams, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties.

Stripe rust observation map. Please visit: <u>usdaars.maps.arcgis.com</u>

**Oat stem rust.** Oat stem rust was reported in seven states, and race TGN was common in the samples phenotyped to date. This race has been the dominant race in the last four years in the United States. Other races identified in 2025 include SGN, TJS, JBD, JBL, and SGD.

Texas – During an early April rust survey, high levels of oat stem rust were observed on spring oats carrying the Pg12 and Pga resistance genes in sentinel plots at Weslaco and on an unknown oat variety used as windbreaks in watermelon production fields in Edinburg. Disease incidence reached 100%, with severity up to 80%—a level considered a potential inoculum source for other oat-growing regions further north. Stem rust was also detected on wild oats growing along highways in Matagorda and Wharton counties, with severity ranging from trace to 20%. On April 22, stem rust with high incidence and moderate severity was observed on several breeding lines in the oat nursery at Castroville.

Louisiana – Stem rust was observed on the variety Brooks at the Louisiana State University research station in Baton Rouge in mid-April.

South Dakota – In mid-July, low levels of oat stem rust were detected on a few varieties at the South Dakota State University research fields in Volga.

*North Dakota* – Low levels of oat stem rust were observed at the North Dakota State University oat trials in Casselton.

*Minnesota* – Oat stem rust was observed at up to 50% severity and incidence in variety trials at the University of Minnesota research plots in Redwood County.

*Illinois* – Stem rust was observed at trace to 20% severity and 1% incidence in oat trials at the University of Illinois, Champaign, research fields.

*California* – The Cereal Disease Laboratory received two oat stem rust collections from Camarillo in Ventura County and a collection from Davis (Yolo County).

# Races of oat stem rust identified to date from the 2025 collections.

Race	State	Host	Cultivar	Disease
JBD	CA	Unknown oat type	Unknown	Oat stem rust
JBL	CA	Spring oat	Montezuma	Oat stem rust
TGN	IL	Unknown oat type	Unknown	Oat stem rust
SGD	LA	Winter oat	Brooks	Oat stem rust
TGN	MN	Unknown oat type	Unknown	Oat stem rust
TGN	MN	Unknown oat type	MN23129	Oat stem rust
TGN	SD	Unknown oat type	Unknown	Oat stem rust
TGN	TX	Spring oat	Pg12	Oat stem rust
TJS	TX	Spring oat	PgA	Oat stem rust
TJS	TX	Spring oat	Pg12	Oat stem rust
TGN	TX	Spring oat	Unknown	Oat stem rust
TJS	TX	Spring oat	Unknown	Oat stem rust
TGN	TX	Spring oat	OSR8 Pg10	Oat stem rust
TGN	TX	Spring oat	R31 G45 P2	Oat stem rust
TGN	TX	Spring oat	R31 G4 P3	Oat stem rust
SGN	TX	Spring oat	Unknown	Oat stem rust
SGD	TX	Spring oat	Unknown	Oat stem rust



Oat stem rust on windbreaks in a watermelon field in Edinburg, TX on April 8, 2025. Photo by Yue Jin

Oat crown rust. Severe natural crown rust was reported in research plots and production fields in 2025.

Texas – In early April, high incidence and severity of oat crown rust were observed on susceptible check Marvelous, and on differential lines carrying the Pg16, Pg12, Pg6, and Pga genes in sentinel plots at Weslaco. Severe infections were also recorded on wild oats growing along highways in Matagorda and Wharton counties. On April 22, trace to moderate levels of crown rust were observed on multiple varieties and lines in the oat nurseries at Uvalde and Castroville, with only a few pustules found on Marvelous.

Louisiana – On March 1, a few pustules of oat crown rust were found on the variety Cosaque, which had been planted early as a cover crop at the Louisiana State University research station in Baton Rouge. However, the susceptible variety Brooks was free of rust when checked on March 9. By April 10, early crown rust infection was prevalent on Brooks and reached 100% incidence, but the disease level was lower in Crowley nursery.

South Dakota – At the South Dakota State University research field in Volga, oat crown rust severity and incidence ranged from low to 100%, depending on the variety. The pathogen had progressed to the telial stage in some varieties. In contrast, only a few crown rust pustules were found in a narrow strip of a later-maturity variety within the yield trial at the Aurora location.

*North Dakota* – At the North Dakota State University oat fields in Casselton, crown rust severity and incidence ranged from low to 100%, depending on variety. Teliospores had developed on the lower canopies of most susceptible varieties. Many late-planted plots were rust-free.

Minnesota – In mid-July, high crown rust pressure was observed in oat yield and variety trials at the University of Minnesota Southern research fields in Waseca and Redwood counties. Disease severity and incidence reached up to 100%, depending on the variety. Teliospores had developed on the lower canopy of most susceptible varieties. Severe crown rust was also reported in a production field in Olmsted County, located in southeastern Minnesota.

Wisconsin – The Cereal Disease Laboratory received a crown rust sample from Oneida County, where disease severity was 50% and incidence was 25% at the time of collection.

*Illinois* – Trace to 60% severity and up to 20% incidence of crown rust were observed in oat trials at the University of Illinois Champaign research fields.

Kentucky – Twelve collections of oat crown rust from Lexington, Fayette County, were submitted to the Cereal Disease Laboratory.

Alabama – On April 3, crown rust was observed in the oat nursery in Escambia County, with incidence ranging from 1% to 20% and severity at trace levels. Crown rust was generally present at low to moderate levels of incidence and severity in the oat nursery at Baldwin County. Samples were submitted to the Cereal Disease Laboratory for race-typing. At the time of sampling, the oat crop was at the heading growth stage.

Georgia – Crown rust was reported in growers' fields in Grady County in early March.

New York – Oat crown rust was the most prevalent rust observed during the 2025 growing season in New York and poses a significant threat to susceptible cultivars. Varieties with high disease pressure include Steuben, Mistral, Caprice, Corrall, and NewDak.





Oat crown rust pressure and telial stage observed at the SDSU research field in Volga, SD, on July 15. Photo by Oluseyi Fajolu.

Oat crown rust collection map. Please visit: usdaars.maps.arcgis.com

### Barley leaf rust.

*Texas* – Severe leaf rust was observed on spring barley PI 532013 and Hiproly in the sentinel plots at Weslaco in the second week of April. The barley lines ranged from head fully emerged to soft dough growth stages.

North Carolina – Leaf rust was detected in barley fields in the Raleigh area.

*Ohio* – Barley leaf rust was observed at approximately 20% incidence and 1–20% severity in plots at the Ohio State University Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster.

New York - Trace levels of barley leaf rust were observed in variety nurseries at Ithaca after flowering.

California – Two barley leaf rust samples were received at the Cereal Disease Laboratory from the University of California research trials in Ventura County.

Washington – At the Mount Vernon nurseries, barley leaf rust reached 40% severity and 50% incidence across multiple varieties.

Barley stripe rust. Barley stripe rust was reported only in Washington. On April 17, the disease was observed on susceptible varieties in the winter nurseries at Central Ferry in Garfield County. Both incidence and severity were higher than those recorded at the same location during the same period last year. In early May, low levels of stripe rust were observed on susceptible checks in experimental fields across Whitman County. By the third week of June, stripe rust severity reached up to 80% on susceptible winter barley varieties in nurseries located in Garfield, Skagit, and Walla Walla counties.



## Rye leaf rust.

Texas – On April 8, high levels of rye leaf rust were observed on the spring rye variety *Prolific* in sentinel plots at Weslaco and Cruz Calle. In contrast, only trace levels were detected in rye plots used as windbreaks in watermelon production fields near Edinburg. At the time of observation, the crop was at the heading stage. By April 22, moderate to high levels of rye leaf rust were present in sentinel and breeding plots at the Castroville nursery.

*Nebraska* – Rye leaf rust with up to 10% severity was observed in rye trials at the University of Nebraska research farm in Saunders County.

*Illinois* – Heavy leaf rust pressure was noted in a private rye field in Champaign County, while moderate levels were observed in trials at the University of Illinois Champaign research fields.

*Indiana* – Rye leaf rust was reported in trials at the Purdue University Agricultural Center for Research and Education site near West Lafayette.

New York – Low levels of rye leaf rust were observed in nurseries at Ithaca on June 30. The rye crop was at soft dough stage.

**Triticale leaf rust.** Approximately 10% leaf rust severity was observed in triticale plots at the University of Nebraska research farm in Lancaster and Saunders counties.

#### Alternate host.

*Minnesota* – A few pustules of crown rust aecia were observed on buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) in Minnesota in early May.

*New York* – Crown rust aecia were observed on buckthorn across the state.



## Thank you!

This is the final Cereal Rust Bulletin for 2025. We, members of the Cereal Disease Laboratory, would like to thank our collaborators for their timely observations, disease updates, and sample collections for race typing. The annual Cereal Rust Survey and Cereal Rust Bulletin wouldn't have been possible without our collaborators' assistance, and we look forward to continued collaboration. The names of those who worked with us and their corresponding states of observations and collections are listed below. We apologize if you are a submitter, and by oversight, we did not include your name.

Sincerely, Oluseyi Fajolu, Ph.D. Biologist USDA-ARS Cereal Disease Laboratory.

Collaborator	State	Collaborator	State
Kira Bowen	AL	Craig Carlson	ND
Kathy Burch	AL	Stephen Wegulo	NE
Alicia del Blanco	CA	Pablo Olivera	NE
Annernick Schilder	CA	Gary Bergstrom	NY
Alfredo Martinez-Espinoza	GA	Judith Kolkman	NY
James Buck	GA	Meriem Aoun	OK
Juliet Marshall	ID	Brett Carver	OK
Erick De Wolf	KS	Shaobin Zhong	OK, KS
Kelsey Andersen Onofre	KS	Alex Celiz	SC
Carl Bradley	KY	Madalyn Shires	SD
Brzozowski, L	KY	Paul Richter	SD
Stephen Harrison	LA	Melanie Caffe	SD
Doug Luster	MD	Daniel Hathcoat	TX
Melissa Carter	MD	Shuyu Liu	TX
Roger Caspers	MN	Geraldine Opena	TX
Jakob Riddle	MN	Brandon Gerrish	TX
Matt Kruger	MN	Yue Jin	TX, LA
Sam Gale	MN, OH, IN, IL	Matt Moscou	TX, LA
Oluseyi Fajolu	MN, SD, ND	Nicholas Santantonio	VA
Tom Allen	MS	Limei Liu	VA
Uta McKelvy	MT	Meinan Wang	WA
Christina Cowger	NC	Xianming Chen	WA, ID, OR
Paul Murphy	NC	Shahryar Kianian	WI

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