

# CEREAL RUST BULLETIN

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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  
markh@umn.edu

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- Oat crown rust is severe in southern oat growing areas.
- Wheat leaf rust is increasing throughout the southern U.S.
- Wheat stripe rust is lighter than last year throughout the southern wheat growing area of the U.S.

Winter wheat growth and development is at normal maturity with some U.S. areas drier than normal. In the spring grain area of the northern plains, warm temperatures have allowed for an early start for fieldwork and planting.

**Wheat stem rust.** As of April 20, no wheat stem rust has been reported in the U.S.

**Wheat leaf rust.** In mid-April, leaf rust was found from Texas to Kansas. In most of south and central Texas, rain and dews have been ideal for the infection process to occur (Fig. 1). In a central Texas nursery on the susceptible cultivar Jagger the leaves were completely dead because of heavy rust infections. During mid-April, leaf rust was increasing in southern Oklahoma on susceptible cultivars. On April 9, traces of leaf rust were found in several fields in south central Kansas.

In mid-April, from central Louisiana, through Alabama to Georgia, low levels of leaf rust infection were observed in research plots and fields. In a few susceptible cultivars 40% severities were reported in south central Louisiana nurseries. By mid-April, leaf rust was increasing in areas of Arkansas that had sufficient moisture. Leaf rust incidence and severity could increase in the next few weeks with increased rainfall and warmer temperatures.

**Wheat stripe rust.** In mid-April, stripe rust was light in south and central Texas (Fig. 2). This year stripe rust was found in fewer locations and warmer day and night temperatures restricted stripe rust development.

By mid-April, wheat stripe rust was light in south central Louisiana plots, but in northeast Louisiana wheat varietal plots stripe rust was severe. Some fields were sprayed to reduce losses due to rust. Significant amounts of stripe rust have occurred in five of the last seven years in Louisiana.

In mid-April in southwestern Arkansas wheat plots, stripe rust was absent to low severity on the most commonly grown varieties. In eastern Arkansas there were scattered reports of stripe rust. Wheat fields with stripe rust were likely sprayed with fungicides. Stripe rust development is too late to cause further losses unless cool, wet weather develops.



In mid-April, wheat stripe rust was severe in susceptible varieties in nurseries in the Central Valley and Sacramento Valley of California. In the same area stripe rust was low to moderate severity on durum varieties. Infection foci were observed in fields in the Sacramento Valley.

**Oat stem rust.** In mid-April, stem rust was increasing in south and central Texas nurseries. Stem rust infections were equal to last year in this area.

By mid-April, stem rust was severe in oat demonstration strip plots in south west Louisiana.

**Oat crown rust.** By mid-April, severe oat crown rust was found across central and southern Texas. This is the most severe crown rust seen in Texas in the last 20 years.

In mid-April, crown rust was severe in oat demonstration strip plots in south west Louisiana. These southern locations should provide inoculum for the oat growing areas further north.

**Buckthorn.** Buds on buckthorn, the alternate host for oat crown rust, are just beginning to break in the buckthorn nursery at St. Paul, Minnesota. This is later than normal for most years.

**Barley stem rust.** No barley stem rust has yet been found in 2004.

**Barley leaf rust.** There have been no new reports of barley leaf rust since April 6.

**Stripe rust on barley.** There have been no new reports of stripe rust on barley since CRB #1.

**Rye rusts.** There have been no new reports of rye leaf rust since April 6.



Fig. 1. Leaf rust severities in wheat fields - April 20, 2004

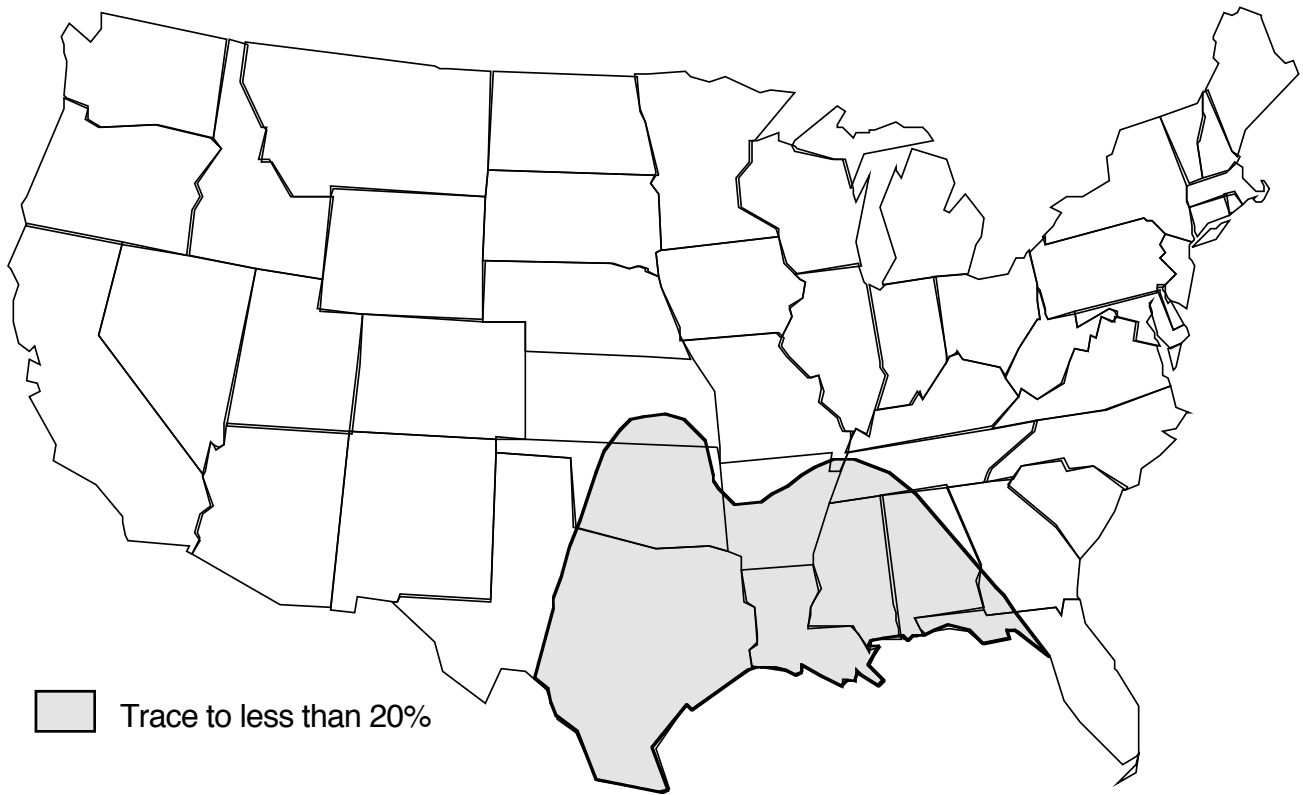


Fig. 2. Stripe rust severities in wheat fields - April 20, 2004

