

CEREAL RUST BULLETIN

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Issued by:

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- Wheat leaf rust is widespread throughout the southern U.S.
- Wheat stripe rust is at low levels in the southern U. S. wheat growing area.
- Oat stem rust is increasing in plots in Texas and Louisiana.
- Oat crown rust is increasing in the southern oat growing areas.

Winter wheat is at normal developmental stage, but many areas in the winter wheat area of the U.S. have been damaged by the spring freeze and wind. In the spring wheat and oat area of the northern plains, cool and wet conditions have slowed field preparation and planting.

Wheat stem rust. As of mid-April no wheat stem rust has been reported in the U.S.

Wheat leaf rust. By the second week of April, susceptible varieties like Jagalene and Jagger in nurseries at Castroville and College Station, Texas had 80% leaf rust severities on lower leaves. On highly resistant varieties like Fannin and Endurance, no infections were found. Low to moderate levels of rust have been reported in Texas fields.

By mid-April, severe levels of leaf rust had been reported on susceptible varieties in north central Oklahoma plots. Moisture in most of Texas and Oklahoma has been good and because of this leaf rust is expected to increase in these states.

In early April, low levels of rust were found in the lower and middle canopy of susceptible wheat in plots at Manhattan, Kansas. In mid-April, 5% severities were reported on the lower leaves of Jagger and Jagalene in south central Kansas.

During the second week in April, plots in southern Louisiana had high levels of leaf rust. In early April, leaf rust was light throughout Arkansas.

Trace amounts of leaf rust were found in plots in the Coastal Plain area of North Carolina in early April.

With continued good conditions for rust development, leaf rust incidence and severity will increase in the next few weeks in areas where freeze damage did not slow the rust development. Many of these southern areas will provide rust inoculum for areas further north.



Wheat stripe rust. In mid-April, only traces of stripe rust were found in southern and central Texas. Dry conditions were not favorable for rust development in February and early March. In mid-April, low levels of rust were found in north central Texas plots at Vernon.

As of mid-April, no stripe rust has been found in Oklahoma or states to the north.

In early April, traces of stripe rust were found in wheat plots in Louisiana. By early April, stripe rust was increasing throughout Arkansas, but freezing temperatures in mid-April may affect further stripe rust development.

This year there have been few stripe rust inoculum sources in the southern U.S. As day and nighttime temperatures continue to increase, they will surpass the optimum for stripe rust development. This will lead to a reduced amount of rust for the northern wheat growing regions of the U.S.

Stripe rust is light in California, because much of the state has been dry and hot and therefore conditions have not been conducive for rust development.

By mid-April, wheat stripe rust had not been found in the major eastern wheat-growing areas of the Pacific Northwest.

Oat stem rust. By mid-April, oat stem rust was increasing in the plots at Castroville and College Station, Texas. Stem rust infections were less than normal in these plots due to the recent cooler than normal temperatures. In mid-April, oat stem rust levels were severe in southeastern Louisiana plots.

Oat crown rust. In mid-April, moderate levels of crown rust were found in south central Texas fields. By the second week in April, severe levels of crown rust were found on susceptible varieties in southern and central Texas plots.

In mid-April, crown rust was increasing in southeast Louisiana oat plots.

Oat crown rust infections are heavier than last year in the southern U.S. because moisture is not a deterrent to rust development this year.

Buckthorn. As of mid-April, buds on buckthorn, the alternate host for oat crown rust, were not developing in the buckthorn nursery at St. Paul, Minnesota. This is normal for buckthorn development in these plots.

Barley stem rust. No barley stem rust has yet been found in 2007.

Barley leaf rust. There have been no new reports of barley leaf rust since March 20.

Stripe rust on barley. No barley stripe rust has been found as of mid-April in the U.S.

Rye rusts. No rye leaf rust has been reported as of mid-April in the U.S.

