



Pest e-alerts



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Wheat Disease Update

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Diseases are still quiet across Oklahoma. Gary Strickland (Extension Educator – southwest Oklahoma) indicated he has “seen one leaf rust pustule.” Also, wheat just has not grown in his area and is just starting to get to the point of tillering but there is so little growth he doesn’t feel there is sufficient growth to support much tillering. He did indicate he has seen and has a lot of reports of brown wheat mites.

Around Stillwater, the wheat soilborne/spindle streak mosaic is the only disease of prominence. Differences between resistant and susceptible wheat breeder lines in my soilborne-spindle streak nursery are quite striking this year (below - note difference between resistant and susceptible lines.).





Wheat soilborne mosaic (left) and wheat spindle streak mosaic (right)

I did find some small pustules of powdery mildew in the extreme low leaves of 'Pete' wheat that was in the range of Feekes 5-6. Wheat around Stillwater is in much better condition than in western Oklahoma where drought has been severe.

I also have seen quite a few lady beetles in my trials and plots, but have yet to see any aphids.

Arkansas: Dr. Gene Milus (Professor/Wheat Pathologist, Univ of Arkansas) 20-Mar-2014: Jason Kelley, Extension wheat agronomist, found fresh leaf rust pustules on volunteer wheat at the Cotton Branch Experiment Station near Marianna on March 20.





Louisiana: Dr. Stephen Harrison (Professor/Wheat Breeder, LSU AgCenter) 18-Mar-2014: I found leaf rust at the Ben Hur Research Farm in Baton Rouge yesterday. This was in an early-planted field for Hessian Fly where I found a few pustules around Christmas. The cold and very wet winter put the rust on hold until recently but it is active and should 'take off' now. I have not received any other rust reports from around the state but will check nurseries in north Louisiana tomorrow.

The wheat crop is a little later than normal and has a much tighter range of heading dates due to the cold winter. The variety trial probably averages second node but is very rapidly developing.

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