

Wheat Disease Update – 09 June 2009
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Below is one recent observation from Rick Kochenower in the OK panhandle and a few others from Kansas and Nebraska.

Oklahoma; Rick Kochenower, Agronomy Extension Specialist, OK panhandle: I found what I think is stripe rust on some wheat in the Balko area yesterday. Heavy infestation but was so late that it is not going to affect yield I don't think although the flag leaf is heavily infested with pustules.

Kansas; Dr. Erick DeWolf, Wheat Extension Pathologist, Kansas State University:

06-08-2009: Wheat in Kansas is rapidly maturing, and now is in the late milk or dough stages of growth in most areas. We continue to find leaf rust throughout Kansas. Today's trip to NW Kansas indicates that leaf rust has increased at Colby (Thomas County), and the incidence of leaf rust is now greater than 90% on the flag leaves of varieties known to be susceptible including Overlay, Jagalene and Jagger. The severity is currently less than 5% on most leaves. This level of leaf rust is lower than the last two years in Kansas.

Several small foci of stripe rust were also found in susceptible varieties 2137, TAM 110, and TAM 112. I have also seen a few stripe lesions on varieties previously identified as moderately resistant. This observation on the MR varieties has been reported before late in the growing season. This is similar pattern that we have seen during the past two years.

I did not observe stem rust at the Colby location.

Illinois; Dr. Stephen Wegulo, Asst. Professor & Extension Specialist, University of Nebraska: Yesterday (June 8) we (a team from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a team from the University of Wyoming) toured wheat fields in the southern Panhandle of Nebraska. Wheat was at the full heading to flowering growth stages. There was very little disease in all growers' fields we toured. The diseases observed in growers' fields were loose smut at about 1% incidence, leaf rust at trace levels, and tan spot at trace levels. At the UNL High Plains Ag Lab near Sidney in a field in which wheat was drilled into wheat stubble, tan spot severity on lower leaves averaged about 30% and incidence was 100% in the areas of the field we looked at. This field also had very severe wheat streak mosaic at the northwest corner. Gary Hein, UNL entomologist and Director of the Doctor of Plant Health program was on the UNL team and told me volunteer wheat was actively growing last fall after wheat planting in an adjacent sunflower field north and northwest of this wheat field.

