

Wheat Disease Update – 19 April 2019
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This past week I had phone conversations with two individuals from southwestern OK. Both indicated they are starting to see a bit more rust (primarily leaf rust) across southwestern OK, and with wheat approaching heading they are considering making arrangements to spray.

Moving into central OK, David Nowlin (Extn. Educator; Caddo County in central Oklahoma) reported that on Monday, April 15th when he was at the variety trial near Apache, OK, many of the varieties were just starting to head. He found no rust at the variety trial, but continues to see tan spot/septoria. He also indicated the trial had been sprayed for aphids, so there were no aphids.

Also early this past week, Robert Calhoun (Senior Agriculturalist, Plant & Soil Sciences, OkSU) found stripe rust at the Experiment Station located in north-central OK near Lahoma (Figure 1). Robert indicated the incidence of stripe rust was extremely low. Today (Friday, 19-Apr) I looked at wheat west of Stillwater to Hennessey (about 50 miles) and then north to Waukomis (about 20 miles). Wheat along this route and around Stillwater is between growth stages 9-10 (flag leaf fully emerged to boot stage). I didn't see rust anywhere I stopped. I did see some tan spot in one field that had obvious wheat residue, and moderate powdery mildew on lower leaves in one field. By far the most common "find" was aphids – mostly bird cherry-oat, but also some greenbug. I observed some associated spots that I suspect are barley yellow dwarf, but these "spots" were fairly scattered and not numerous. Brian Olson (Senior Agriculturalist; OkSU) spent Friday morning spraying at the station near Lahoma and indicated he did not find any rust and that heads were not yet in the boot.

In summary, foliar diseases are still at low incidence across Oklahoma but there is the indication that leaf rust is increasing across southern OK. Given the present and short-term forecast for temperature and moisture, I expect leaf rust to increase. These conditions also are favorable for stripe rust and powdery mildew, but the seeming sparseness of these two foliar diseases at this point in time indicates that in a typical year we are more at risk from leaf rust than we are from stripe rust or powdery mildew.

Figure 1. Low incidence of stripe rust on winter wheat at Lahoma Station about 15 miles west of Enid OK as observed by Robert Calhoun (Sr. Agriculturalist, Plant and Soil Sciences, OkSU).



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