



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY WHEAT SCIENCE NEWS

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WHEAT DISEASE UPDATE Don Hershman, Extension Plant Pathologist

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May 22
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Field Day—Princeton
July 18

Mark Your Calendars:

WHEAT FIELD DAY
Mike Ellis Farm—
Shelby County
May 22, 2002

9AM-Noon (Eastern Time)
For More Information,
Contact Dottie Call
270-365-7541 Ext 234

UNIVERSITY OF KY
FIELD DAY—Princeton
July 18, 2002
8AM-3PM (CDT)

For More Information,
Contact Sam McNeill
270-365-7541 Ext 213

Here is a brief update on the current wheat disease situation in Kentucky

Rusts: Leaf rust is fairly widespread in Kentucky; as of this writing, the levels of leaf rust are low. However, the recent weather patterns have probably resulted in significant rust infection in fields where spores were present and susceptible varieties were planted. Fields sprayed with Tilt, PropiMax or Stratego, according to label instructions, may not provide adequate protection against the onslaught of leaf rust. Over time these products lose effectiveness due to weathering, and metabolism of the active ingredients within the plant. However, fields sprayed with Quadris after head emergence should be well protected and respond favorably compared with non-sprayed, rust-susceptible wheat.

Stripe rust is present in some fields in western Ky; however, at this time overall levels appear to be low. Based on reports of field devastation in Arkansas, it appears as though we may have dodged the stripe rust bullet.

Powdery Mildew: As usual, there is quite a bit of mildew in susceptible varieties throughout the state. The immediate past weather conditions have encouraged movement of the disease onto the upper canopy in some fields. However, the most recent weather trends will likely shut powdery mildew down almost entirely. Powdery Mildew is a cool weather disease.

Speckled leaf blotch: This disease is very widespread; it got a good head start earlier this spring as it jumped into winter-killed lower leaf tissue. I have seen quite a few fields where speckled leaf blotch has moved into the flag leaf, but the severity is low, overall. Like powdery mildew, this disease should shut down soon, assuming we get the standard warming of temperatures during May.

Nodorum leaf and glume blotch: The foliar phase of this disease is at high incidence in many fields, but the severity is low. If wet and warm weather occurs during May, look for this disease to be a significant player



in reducing yields. Annually, leaf and glume blotch, caused by *Stagonospora nodorum*, is one of the most consistently destructive diseases in Kentucky.

Tan Spot: Levels of tan spot are rather low at this time.

Barley Yellow Dwarf (BYD): BYD has appeared rather late in most fields. The majority of the fields I have looked at indicate that BYD virus infection occurred in early spring, based on the appearance of symptoms during heading. Observations also indicate that fields sprayed earlier this spring generally have significantly less BYD than fields not receiving an insecticide treatment (i.e., for control of aphids that spread the BYD virus). Because of the lateness of symptom expression in most fields, I do not anticipate serious yield losses will occur, even where no insecticide sprays were applied. As usual, I am seeing secondary bacterial infections on BYD-symptomatic leaves. This is a common association, but there is no evidence that the bacteria are resulting in any measurable yield loss.

Fusarium Head Blight (head scab): It is too early to know how severe this disease will be this spring. Numerous thunderstorms over a multi-day period while many fields were flowering is cause of great concern. The extent of damage due to Fusarium head blight should be evident by the third week in May.

Downy Mildew: We are seeing more than the usual amount of downy mildew this spring. Nonetheless, the disease is almost always confined to small, extremely wet spots of fields. Edges and corners of fields appear to be the most affected, probably due to soil compaction issues. The downy mildew fungus requires an extended period of saturated soils in order to infect wheat. Affected plants will be severely stunted and bight yellow. Affected plants have an extra large flag leaf which are leathery to the touch and may be somewhat striped in appearance. Emerged heads may be severely distorted and twisted; most of the smaller tillers of affected plants will be dead.

UK COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE FIELD DAY 2002

PRINCETON (Hwy 91 South)

Thursday, July 18 8AM-3PM (CDT)

CCA Credits Available

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/wkrec/index.htm>

- Agriculture Tours/Topics
- Horticulture Tours
- Family & Consumer Science
- Youth Activities
- Exhibits

For more information, Contact:

Sam McNeill, Field Day Chairman

270/365-7541 Ext. 213

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY WHEAT FIELD DAY



Mike Ellis Farm, Shelby County

May 22, 2002

9:00 - Noon (Eastern Time)



CCA Credits Available (2.5 hrs.)

Lunch Provided by Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association

■ **Wheat Variety Trials - Conventional & No-Till**

Dave VanSanford and Gerald Claywell

■ **Canola (Production & Economics)**

James Herbek and Steve Riggins

■ **No-Till Wheat**

Lloyd Murdock and Mike Ellis

■ **Tips on Fumigating Stored Wheat**

Doug Johnson and Sam McNeill

■ **Foliar Fungicide Labels - Do's and Don'ts**

Don Hershman

Be sure and visit the Precision Agriculture Equipment on Display

Directions to field day site: Take exit 35 off of I-64. Turn North on Hwy. 53, go straight at light by McDonalds, (you are now on Hwy. 55.) Continue on Hwy. 55 and turn right on to Stoney Point Rd. (right past fire station). Watch for field day signs.

For more information, contact: Brittany Edelson, Shelby County Agricultural Agent at 502-633-4593 or Dottie Call, Wheat Science Group Coordinator at 270-365-7541 ext. 234.

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For More Information, Contact:

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Visit our Website:

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/ukrec/welcome2.htm>

Lloyd W. Murdock, Extension Soils Specialist

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