CEREAL RUST BULLETIN

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Issued by:

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- Wheat stem rust is increasing on susceptible cultivars in central Texas and northeastern Louisiana.
- Wheat leaf rust is widespread throughout the southern U.S.
- Oat stem rust is increasing in Texas and Louisiana plots.
- Oat crown rust is increasing in the southern U.S. oat growing areas.

Wheat Stem Rust. ***Texas –*** In early May, wheat stem rust was found on the susceptible cultivar McNair 701, at McGregor and College Station and in plots of susceptible cultivars at Bardwell and Giddings in central Texas.

Louisiana – In early May, wheat stem rust was increasing in plots at Winnsboro in northeast Louisiana. Many of the soft red winter wheats had severities of 40 to 60%.

Alabama –In early May, severe levels of stem rust were found in a plot of the susceptible cultivar McNair 701 at Headland in southeastern Alabama.

These southern wheat stem rust locations will provide inoculum for susceptible wheats further north.

Stem rust observation maps can be found on the CDL website (http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=9757).

Race Pgt-QFCS, a common race in recent years, was identified from collections made from plots in Winnsboro, Louisiana and on barley collections made in Hidalgo county in Texas.

Wheat Leaf Rust. ***Texas –*** In early May, high levels of leaf rust were found in plots of susceptible wheat while low levels were found in fields in central Texas. With continued good conditions for rust development, leaf rust incidence and severity will increase in central Texas the next few weeks and this will provide rust inoculum for areas further north.

Oklahoma - In early May, leaf rust was found in the canopy of Jagalene (*Lr24*) and Jagger (*Lr17*) plots at Stillwater, Oklahoma. Leaf rust was at the 15% severity level on flag leaves and in the 40-65 MS/S level on leaves below the flag. Leaf rust will be increasing with the current ideal temperatures and abundance of free moisture for rust increase.
Louisiana – In early May, high levels of leaf rust were observed in susceptible wheat plots in central and northeastern Louisiana. Significant levels of leaf rust were found in fields of LA841 in northern Louisiana. This variety has occupied a large portion of acreage in the region for the last five years and

has the *Yr17/Lr37/Sr38* complex. It appears the *Yr17* gene is still effective against stripe rust in the region, but virulenence on *Lr37* exists in the current leaf rust population.

Weather conditions have been ideal for rust development with lots of moisture and ideal temperatures across Louisiana.

Arkansas – In early May, low levels of leaf rust were reported throughout Arkansas.

Alabama – In early, May high levels (60-80%) of leaf rust were found in plots of susceptible wheat in central and in fields in southwestern Alabama. Leaf rust from this area will provide inoculum for northern wheat areas.

Georgia - In early May, high levels of leaf rust were found in plots and low levels in fields in southwestern Georgia.

From rust collections made in late February 2009 in a central Texas nursery, the common leaf rust races were identified; TDBJH (*Lr24* and *42* virulence), TDBGG (*Lr24*), MFPSC (*Lr17,24,26*) and MLDSD (*Lr9,17,41*). From a collection made in late February in a nursery near Manhattan, Kansas the MLDSD race was identified. These races were also identified in the 2008 race survey.

Wheat Stripe Rust. ***Arkansas*** – In early May, no stripe rust was found in Arkansas. The threat of stripe rust appears to be low because the wheat crop is past the most favorable time for stripe rust development and most of the acreage is planted with varieties that have resistance.

Oklahoma - As of early May, no stripe rust has been reported in Oklahoma.

Georgia – In early May, severe levels of stripe rust were found in susceptible cultivars at the Plains, Georgia nursery. Stripe rust had been artificially inoculated in these plots.

Oat Stem Rust. In early May, severe levels of oat stem rust were found in several plots at College Station and light levels at McGregor in Texas. Stem rust also was found on wild oats growing alongside the road in central Texas.

In early May, severe levels (20-40%) of stem rust were found in the Winnsboro, Louisiana oat plots.

Stem rust observation maps can be found on the CDL website (http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=9757).

Oat Crown Rust. In early May, high levels of crown rust were found in susceptible oat plots from southeastern Alabama to northeastern Louisiana. Light levels were found in the fields. These southern locations will provide crown rust inoculum for oat growing areas further north.