

# Early Case Of Stripe Rust Found In Cross Co., Ark.

**WYNNE, ARK.**

**A**n unexpectedly early case of wheat stripe rust has been confirmed in Cross County, Jason Kelley, extension wheat and feed grains agronomist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said Friday.

Fungicide applications are not recommended at this time, he said.

Kelley said Richard Klerk, Cross County extension agent for the division reported "stripe rust in a field of an experimental wheat variety that was planted Oct. 6."

This is about two months earlier than stripe rust had been found in Arkansas during previous seasons and appears to be the first report of stripe rust east of the Rocky Mountains in

2012. The affected area is about the size of a small car, and plants contain numerous leaves with stripe rust on them.

The rust probably started with a single spore that blew into the field shortly after the plants emerged, agronomists said.

The mild winter appears to have been ideal for several cycles of spore creation and re-infection, and this case may be a sign of increased risk of a stripe rust epidemic this season, the agronomists said.

Winter wheat producers need to scout their fields. "It's odd to find stripe rust this far north and not have cases further south," Kelley said, adding "There are likely other fields that do have stripe rust, but haven't been located yet."

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