

Producers Should Be On The Lookout For Septoria Leaf Blotch And Powdery Mildew In Wheat Fields

LAMAR, MO.

On March 21, fields 10 miles southeast of Lamar and fields immediately north of Lamar were scouted by Wyatt Miller, an agronomy assistant with University of Missouri Extension.

The majority of wheat scouted was in feekes stage of 7, while some that was planted later was in stage 6. Feekes stage of 7 is observed by rapid expansion of the spike and two nodes above the soil surface. With the warm weather, wheat growth has really taken off and is likely to soon be in Feekes stage 8, with the flag leaf becoming visible.

Weather conditions were not conducive for crop scouting and it is possible that some pest went unnoticed. In some fields, Bird cherry oat aphids were seen above economic threshold levels of 12-15 per linear foot.

“With the heavy rain it is likely that several aphids were on crop residues and not visible at the time of scouting,” said Miller.

Producers that have not sprayed should scout their fields for bird cherry oat aphids, which are often less than one-sixteen of an inch and dark olive green in color with red on the rear around their cornicles or “tailpipes.”

According to MU Disease Pathologist, Laura Sweets, producers should be on the lookout for

Septoria leaf blotch and powdery mildew.

“There have been a couple of confirmed cases of Septoria leaf blotch in the area, but does not warrant concern at this time,” said Sweets.

Septoria leaf blotch starts as light yellow flecks or streaks that expand into yellow to reddish brown irregularly shaped blotches. Now that wheat canopies are beginning to close, recent rains may cause ideal conditions for powdery mildew development.

Powdery mildew infections begin as light green to yellow flecks on the leaf surface. As powdery mildew develops, leaf surfaces become covered with patches of cottony white mold growth. At this time neither septoria Leaf blotch nor powdery mildew has been seen at levels to cause concern.

Those with alfalfa hay fields should scout for alfalfa weevil. Alfalfa weevils cause foliage damage as worms in the third and fourth larval stages. They can cause significant yield and quality losses.

“The economic threshold level is an average of one or more larvae per stem when 50 stems are sampled. Early infestations of alfalfa weevil larvae are best managed with an insecticide application, but can be managed using early harvest, by machine or livestock, in some cases,” said Miller. Δ



Link Directly To: **SYNGENTA**