Soilborne Viruses, Rust Showing Up In Southwest Missouri Wheat Fields

SPRINGFIELD, MO.

Soilborne Viruses, Rust Showing Up in Southwest Missouri Wheat Fields According to MU Extension Specialist

Jay Chism, an agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension in Barton County, scouted wheat fields in southwest Missouri this week and found multiple foliage diseases

"Virus diseases were observed in area wheat fields this week, and were also confirmed by the diagnostic clinic at MU from the sample I sent in last week," said Chism.

Two prominent virus diseases observed this season are wheat spindle streak mosaic, and wheat soilborne mosaic virus.

These soilborne viruses tend to be more prevalent in lower, wetter areas of a field. Wet fall weather also favors the disease.

Symptoms for spindle streak mosaic include lesions that run parallel to the leaf veins and taper at the ends.

Soilborne mosaic is more difficult to distinguish and might appear as a general yellowing, similar to how a nitrogen deficiency might appear. Symptoms are more obvious when temperatures are around 50 degrees.

"It is very important to remember that virus diseases will not be controlled with a fungicide application," said Chism.

As reported last week, Septoria leaf spot continues to infect expanded leaves and another field scout observed stripe rust in Barton County last week as well.

When considering using fungicides on wheat, profitability depends on several factors including varietal differences. Some varieties will be more susceptible to some diseases than other wheat varieties. This is also true with rust diseases that blow up from southern states.

Disease severity, and when the fungicide is applied are also important factors.

"The greatest increase in yield is usually obtained when fungicides are applied to disease-susceptible varieties with a high yield potential and before the flag leaf becomes severely infected. With that in mind it is important to evaluate your wheat stand. Thin stands that have poor yield potential may not cover the cost of a fungicide application," said Chism.

Bird cherry oat aphids numbers also continue to increase. The fields Chism scouted this week averaged 35 aphids per linear foot of row. The thin stand of wheat does not justify a treatment at this level.

For more information on this scouting report, or to learn how you can receive it a week earlier by telephone, contact the MU Extension Center in Barton County at (417) 682-3579. Δ