

Wet Weather Increases Risk Of Foliar Diseases In Wheat Crop; Aphid Numbers Down, Corn Healthy



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LAMAR, MO.

The southwest Missouri wheat fields scouted by Jay Chism, an agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension, on May 18 were in full bloom. However, recent rain fall has increased the number of foliar diseases present in this year's crop.

"I continue to see virus diseases like Barley yellow dwarf, and wheat spindle streak mosaic virus but I also observed an increase of other foliar diseases caused by fungi," said Chism. "In one field I was surprised by the amount of stripe rust that was present."

Current weather patterns in southwest Missouri are favorable for many fungal pathogens, including the pathogen that causes head scab. Chism says the risk of Fusarium head scab is high when weather conditions are warm and moist during bloom to early grain fill. "If the weather does stay cool, below 77 degrees, this might slow the infection somewhat," said Chism.

The MU Extension Center in Barton County has information about foliar fungicides, as well as pictures of some of the viral diseases, posted online at <http://extension.missouri.edu/barton>.

However, not everything Chism found on his scouting report was bad news. There has been a reduction of aphids in the area and very few armyworm larvae. "Large numbers of beneficial insects have all but wiped out the aphid populations at this time. And, I only found a handful of armyworm larvae, but it is important to continue to watch the flag leaf for armyworm damage," said Chism.

Chism did find some cereal

The leaves on the far left show the mosaic pattern that could be spindle streak mosaic and/or soil-borne mosaic virus. Leaves on the right of this image show symptoms of barley yellow dwarf virus.

leaf beetle larva, but not in high enough numbers to cause significant damage. Cereal leaf beetle larva has a slug like appearance and feed on the flag leaf by removing the green layer from the upper leaf surface. "The result is a bleached out looking flag leaf that may give a field a frosted appearance in heavy infested areas," said Chism.

Chism says the corn fields he walked looked good and the plant stands look very good. However, there has been a pest alert from Vernon County concerning a high Black Cutworm moth count capture. "Growers, particularly in the northern portion of the county, need to scout late planted corn looking for cutting damage. No-till fields and fields that have poor weed control should also be scouted very close. Extra debris might be an attractive place for the moths to lay eggs," said Chism. **Δ**

