

Weekly Wheat Bulletin

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The Weekly Wheat Bulletin is designed to share quick, informal and reliable information about the state's wheat crop and disease conditions. Comments forwarded by Thursday morning of each week will be posted in the Bulletin for distribution Thursday evening. Archived copies of the 2008 Wheat Bulletin may be accessed on the California Wheat Commission website:
www.californiawheat.org

For those of you that are new to our mailing list, the length of this bulletin will change from week to week. The amount of material is dependent on the contributions of our readers.

Comments:

5.7.08 - "We have seen a number of locations with Stripe rust showing up in the variety Joaquin. One thing that was unique though was that the disease infested only scattered plants but has not taken off and infested most of the plants like we have seen in the past. So far I don't expect it to be a major factor effecting yield in most cases.

I am more concerned this year with frost damage in some fields. Overall I think most areas missed major damage. I have several fields with scattered plants with blank kernels in the heads. I saw one field that I

expect yields to be off up to 30% and others perhaps 5-10%. Fields with a high amount of frost damage are good candidates to go for silage than keeping it for grain.

Wheat and triticale silage has begun the last 2 weeks. Two weeks ago in most cases this would have resulted in poor quality forage and lower yields since it was harvested at the flowering to milk stage. The combination of highest quality and best tonnage silage will begin to be harvested at the soft dough stage toward the end of this week and be in full swing next week." *Steve Wright, Farm Advisor- Tulare and Kings Counties-Cotton, Small Grains & Weed Control, University of California Cooperative Extension*

5.8.08 - Below is a photo of severe frost damage on 1 field in Tulare County. *Steve Wright, Farm Advisor- Tulare and Kings Counties-Cotton, Small Grains & Weed Control, University of California Cooperative Extension*



5.7.08 - Our stripe rust fungicide trial is in a Summit field where 90 percent of the flag leaves are covered with spores in the untreated plots and the area surrounding the trial. Now five weeks after treatment, some of the fungicide treatments still only have five percent of the flag leaf with spores. About half of the fungicide treatments now have about 30 percent of the flag leaf covered with spores. The yield and grain quality results should be interesting. *Doug Munier, Glenn County Farm Advisor*

5/8/08- “Cool spring weather allows stripe rust to continue to develop. The cool conditions we've been experiencing this spring have extended the time for stripe rust to increase in severity and to generate high levels of inoculum for further infections of the wheat crop, increasing the probability for new races to become established and to possibly overcome the resistance of varieties that were resistant at the beginning of the year. This has indeed occurred since at least two of the varieties that were resistant in 2007, Cal Rojo and Joaquin, have shown susceptible reactions in some areas of the Central Valley this season.

The following varieties have very susceptible stripe rust reactions at the UC Davis site of the UC Regional Wheat Test: Anza, Yecora Rojo, Express, Summit, Blanca Grande, Solano, and Joaquin. The following varieties have moderately susceptible stripe rust reactions at the UC Davis site: Mika, Dash-12, Clear White, Otis. The following varieties have resistant stripe rust reactions at the UC Davis site: Patwin, Cal Rojo, Lassik, Espresso, Blanca Royale, and Blanca Fuerte. If you are able to attend the Small Grain and Alfalfa Field Day at UC Davis on May 14, you'll be able to view side-by-side comparisons of stripe rust reactions of these varieties.” *Lee Jackson, UC Cooperative Extension Specialist, Small Grains*

5/9/08 -“Harvest in Kern County and southern Kings County is expected to start on or about May 20th. These are low water-input growers and yields are traditionally lower on these growers. The rest of the area will probably begin sometime in the first week of June with the bulk of the crop ready to harvest June 10th to June 20th.

Water is still an issue for many growers, but most are following through as final irrigations are now being applied by many wheat farmers. Projected yields are strong and most growers have been very aggressive with nitrogen applications, so quality should be good as well. Stripe rust has set in on susceptible varieties as well as one previously resistant variety, but the economic impact from such late onset should be minimal if any.” *Geoff Shultz, Penny Newman Grain Company.*

When will harvest begin?

Imperial Valley – “We have received about 15 trucks so far this week. Things should pick up in the next couple of days.” *Bill Plourd, Handler, Imperial Valley.*

Southern San Joaquin Valley – “Expect to see some wheat harvesting by week of 5/26.” *Mike Holdsworth, Handler, Western Milling.*

Glenn County – “If it turns warm, harvest would probably start the 1st or 2nd week of June. Wheat looks really good.” *Tom Millar, grower, Glenn County.*

South of Highway 80 to Stanislaus River – “Middle of June.” *Tim Grunsky, Handler, Phil O'Connell Grain.*

Madera & Merced Counties –“Harvest is planned to start on 6/23/08.” *Kole Upton, Grower, Merced/Madera*

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