



Blacklands IPM Update



GENERAL:

Generally, wheat around the area still looks good. Over the last week, I have noticed an increase in bird cherry oat aphids and stripe rust. Area fields range between Feekes 3 and Feekes 5, with the majority of the fields in the scouting program at Feekes 4. Now is the optimum time to apply spring fertilizer if it has not been done yet, this will help with determining head size and potential kernels per head and will avoid injury to the growing point. Freezing night time temperatures are forecasted for the later part of this weekend and the early part of next week, just another obstacle to potentially complicate this years wheat season

Wheat Insects & Disease

Bird cherry oat aphids (BCOA) increased over the last week, and fields in the scouting program are ranging from 0 BCOA found to 9.6 BCOA per linear foot. Fields that I have looked at with BCOA are still well below a population that would be concerning, however if Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus symptoms start showing up in fields control of BCOA should be implemented to minimize the spread of Barley Yellow Dwarf. Greenbug populations remain low with the highest greenbug field in the scouting program averaging 0.5 greenbugs per linear foot, still well below the economic threshold of 300-800 greenbugs per linear foot showed in last weeks newsletter. Lady beetles are present in all fields and are more abundant in fields that have BCOA or greenbugs. These population of lady beetles is helping keep our aphid pest populations in check and should be protected if any insecticide application is made. Aphid parasitism is still very low to non-existent in the area, but as weather warms up the presence of parasitic wasp should increase.

Stripe rust levels have increased in both incidence and severity and is now present in 81 percent of the fields in the scouting program. Severity of stripe rust in most of the scouting program remains light with just one field being kept on the radar for a potential fungicide application. Looking over the last 7-10 days, the weather conditions were optimum for stripe rust development, while looking forward 7 days the weather does not look as favorable. The weather forecast is predicting freezing temperatures overnight for Sunday night through Tuesday night which will cause stripe rust activity to decrease. Fields that have not had a fungicide application and is infected with stripe rust, monitor severity going forward especially once temperatures start to increase following the freeze to determine if a fungicide needs to be applied. Septoria blotch is still present in area fields but has not increased to a level that is concerning.

Wheat Freeze Damage

At this point most should be aware that temperatures overnight for Sunday through Tuesday are expected to drop below freezing, with the lowest predicted temperature being 24 degrees Fahrenheit Sunday night into Monday morning. On that note I would like to talk about the potential for freeze damage in area wheat for the rest of this newsletter. Area wheat has broke dormancy and is starting to grow getting closer to jointing (Feekes 6). Wheat freeze damage depends on multiple factors including growth stage, temperatures, duration of freezing temperature, soil moisture, and wind speed. Depending on the growth stage exposure to freezing temperatures for two or more hours can be damaging to the wheat crop. I have included an image in this newsletter below on potentially damaging temperatures to wheat based on growth stages. Fields that have not jointed yet (Feekes 2-4) can withstand exposure to temperature as low as 12 degrees Fahrenheit for up to 2 hours, while fields that have already started jointing can withstand exposure to temperature as low as 24 degrees Fahrenheit for up to 2 hours. If temperatures during this cold snap do drop and stay long enough for potential freeze damage symptoms of damage may not develop for up to a week after the freeze, this is dependent on the temperatures following the freeze. Symptoms of freeze damage include dark foliage with a water-soaked appearance, leaf burn, browning of wheat stems, splitting of wheat stems, and the most severe damage is death of the growing point. When checking for freeze damage, insure to check parts of the fields that are low lying as cold air sinks under calm conditions. If you would like more information on freeze damage in wheat Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has a publication title "Wheat Freeze Injury in Texas". I have also uploaded this document to the IPM Resource tab on the Hill County extension website at <https://www.hill.agrilife.org>, and if temperatures during the cold spell drop low enough to cause freeze damage I will share the post on the Texas A&M AgriLife Hill County Facebook page.

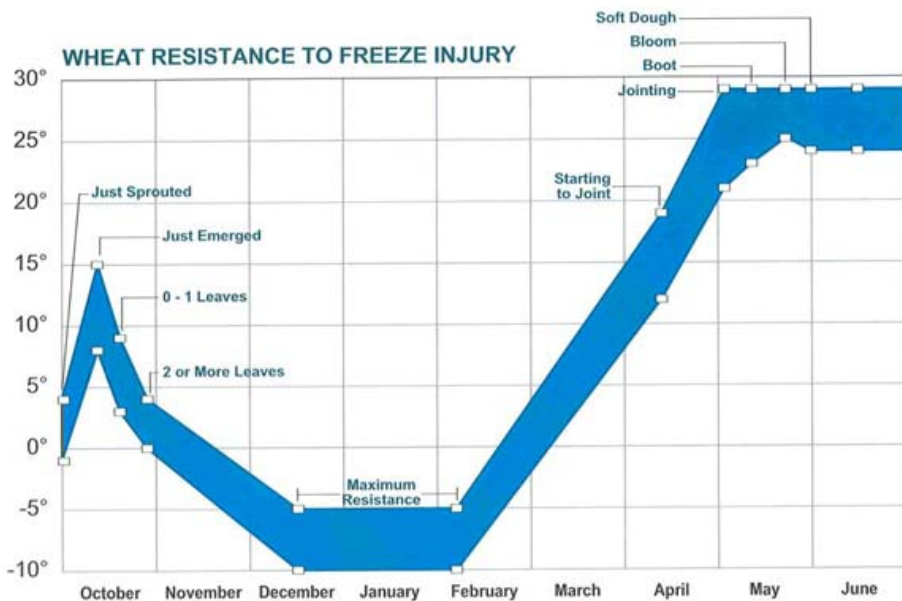


Figure 1. Wheat resistance to freeze injury based on the crops growth stage. Graph was developed by Rober N. Klein, University of Nebraska, and was adapted from A.W. Pauli.

Upcoming Extension Event

- April, 12: Wildlife Trapping Meeting, at the Hill County Fair Ground, time TBA
- April 25: Hill County Wheat Tour, Abbott KC Hall, Time TBA
- April 26: Central Texas Small Grains Field Day, Call for location, time 8:00-12:00

Wild Hog Survey:

You have been invited to participate in this survey as a member of the AgriLife Extension Service mailing list. This study is designed to allow Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to better understand hunter, landowner, and stakeholder opinions about wild pigs and management practices for the species. You will be asked a series of questions about your thoughts and opinions on the resource use, economic impacts, and management of wild pigs. The survey should only take about 30 minutes to complete. Your responses are voluntary. Your answers will be submitted confidentially and will not be linked to your name or address. No risks are expected to participants in the study. There are no sensitive questions in this survey that should cause discomfort. However, you can skip any question you do not wish to answer, or exit the survey at any point. If you have questions, complaints, or concerns about the project, you may contact the Human Research Protection Program at Texas A&M University by phone at (979)-458-4067, toll-free at 1-(855)-795-8636, or by email at irb@tamu.edu.

<http://tinyurl.com/AgriLifeWildPigSurvey>.



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