



Pest Management News Runnels-Tom Green Counties



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General Situation

The Concho Valley Wheat looks really good after the last rain. With Grain Sorghum planting starting and cotton planting beginning in May and our wheat beginning to fill we will need more spring showers to maintain the soil moisture profile, especially with all the windy days. We are getting into the time of year you need to scout your wheat fields regularly. I talked to Rick Minzenmayer a couple of days ago and he reminded me to watch for Brown Wheat Mites. More information is below. Then today Dr. David Drake sent me some information on stripe rust, though not as wide spread as last year some fields are showing signs on the lower leaves. Also scout fields for aphids. Bird cherry oat aphids (dark blue with a red dot on the back) have been seen in the area. For the most part lady bugs are keeping these aphids confined to spots. And the barley yellow dwarf virus, transmitted by the aphid; is already running its course. One report of wheat streak mosaic virus in Concho Valley was observed last week and a sample has been sent off for confirmation. With warmer weather more of these symptoms may appear. 2015-16 was a mild winter which would have helped the wheat curl mite survive and spread the disease. Please report other fields, so samples can be sent to the plant disease diagnostic lab in Amarillo. The web site <http://sickwheat.tamu.edu> has more information on wheat diseases.

Josh Blaneck, CEA
Tom Green County

Stripe Rust

With the return of cool wet weather we have renewed concern of stripe rust in wheat. Although not as wide spread as last year, in many fields the lower leaves are covered in pustules and the rust spores will coat your boots in severe cases. Susceptible varieties seem to be the hardest hit. Before applying a fungicide it might be of more benefit to consider waiting until the flag leaf is fully emerged. The flag leaf provides the majority of carbohydrate for grain fill and protecting it is the highest priority. A fungicide application will only provide about 14 days of protection so the highest cost benefit would be to a fully emerged flag leaf. Some fields, depending on variety and planting date; have partially emerged flag leaves and others may be a couple of



Ron French, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

weeks away. A well timed application will also help protect from leaf rust that could appear with more rain and warmer weather. Spraying a resistant variety does not increase yield so check the variety resistance ratings before spraying. Variety information is available at <http://varietytesting.tamu.edu>. **Remember, that identifying and treating for leaf rust is most important when the flag leaf has emerged.** Protecting the flag leaf is of the up-most importance. With good moisture conditions, mild temperatures and spores already present in area wheat fields, begin monitoring closely for the presence of rust at boot stage.



Brown Wheat Mites

The brown wheat mite is a common pest of dryland or drought-stressed wheat in April. Their dark brown body is rounded or slightly oval, with the first pair of forelegs notably longer than the others. They actively feed on the wheat foliage on clear warm days, during the mid-afternoon and look like black specks moving on the leaves. Affected plants have finely mottled leaves that appear yellowed or bronzed at a distance. Knowing when to treat for infestations is difficult. A driving rain of at least 1/3 inch will cause mite densities to decline naturally. If you can predict when it is going to rain and how much then we need to have lunch and visit. Thresholds for this pest are not well defined, BUT, it is at least several hundred mites per row-foot in the early spring. This figure will increase with lower wheat prices and decrease with higher wheat prices. With that said....both Dimethoate and Lorsban work effectively at reducing populations, but remember residual is short with both insecticides and therefore infestation could increase behind the treatment. So continue to scout your wheat fields regularly. The following table is taken from AgriLife publication E-399 *Managing Insect and Mite Pests of Texas Small Grains*.



Bird Cherry Oat Aphid

Missouri IPM

<http://publications.tamu.edu/WHEAT/Managing%20Insects%20and%20Mite%20Pests%20of%20Texas%20Small%20Grains.pdf>

Product	Rate	PHI
Dimethoate 2.67	0.75 to 1.13 pts/A (Aphids-greenbugs) 0.75 to 1.5 pts/A (Brown wheat mites)	Harvest for grain - 35 days Do not apply within 14 days of grazing
Dimethoate 4E Dimate 4EC	1/2 to 3/4 pt/A (Aphids-greenbugs) 1/3 to 1/2 pt/A (Brown wheat mites)	Harvest for grain - 35 days Do not apply within 14 days of grazing (some labels do not have this state- ment)
Chlorpyrifos 4E (Lorsban) (many different products)	1/2 to 1 pt/A Aphids (including greenbugs, Russian wheat aphids) and Brown wheat mites	Do not apply within 14 days of harvest for forage and hay and within 28 days of harvest for grain and straw. Do not allow livestock to graze or feed on treated forage within 14 days of appli- cation.

Upcoming Events

2016 AgriPlex Ag Day

Tuesday, April 5th at the Ballinger Community Center – Ballinger: Registration and Booth Visitation will begin at 9:00 am and program at 10:00 am. Look for more information to come or contact the Runnels County Extension Office at 325-365-2219.

Holubec Seed Wheat Meeting

Thursday, April 28th at 12 noon – Melvin: More information to come or contact David Holubec.

Concho-McCulloch County Annual Wheat Tour

Thursday, May 5th in Millersview: The Annual Concho-McCulloch County Wheat Tour will be Thursday, March 5th at the Millersview Gymnasium in Millersview, TX. Registration will begin at 8:00 am with program at 9:00. CEU's will be offered. More information will be forth coming or contact the Extension Office in Concho County at 325-732-4304 or McCulloch County at 325-597-1295.