



Crop Pathology

SARDI

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
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INSTITUTE

Crop Watch



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Cereals

Rust Status

Stripe rust has now been found more widely with a large 5m diameter hotspot in a crop of Mace at flag leaf emergence near to Wudinna on the Eyre Peninsula. Also a Gladius crop has shown infection near to Loxton in the Mallee.

Several new reports have also come in from crops in the Lower and Mid North including Redhill (Mace), Balaklava (Scout), Mallala (Mace) and Avon (Gladius).

Where growers have used flutriafol in furrow, their wheat appears to remain clean of rust. These crops may well need a late spray to protect their two top leaves after the early fungicide treatment wears off. Mace and Wyalkatchem are also more vulnerable than other varieties to infection in the head and so early control is advisable.

Net form net blotch

Severe infection of net form net blotch (NFNB) has been observed in a crop of Fleet at Urania. Whilst virulence in Fleet has been observed previously, this the first time that a whole crop has been badly affected.

Observations on the Eyre Peninsula last week revealed clear differences in the pathogen populations of NFNB at Elliston and Streaky Bay. At Elliston, Maritime was severely affected and other varieties had just low levels of infection. At Streaky Bay, Maritime was uninfected and Commander, Schooner, Sloop SA, Flagship and Fathom were moderately infected. These plots are still at the tillering stage and so adult plant resistance may not be expressing very strongly. This illustrates how variable NFNB can be. The disease resistance ratings in the Sowing and Disease Guides are generally the worst a variety is expected to perform and some regional variation may be observed.

Whilst Navigator has rated an MR or MR/MS in NVT trial plots, we have observed it to be susceptible to NFNB using a range of isolates in controlled environment tests. The MR rating of Navigator in the Sowing and Disease Guides is therefore likely to be downgraded in 2013 nearer to an S.

Reports of severe spotting in Hindmarsh are likely to be all due to the spot form of net blotch (SFNB) which is very much less damaging than NFNB. It is questionable whether many of these crops will benefit from fungicide sprays as the treatments are not very effective in already infected crops and yield losses from the disease are relatively minor.

Yellow leaf spot

Yellow leaf spot is common in many wheat crops and mostly where wheat is sown into wheat stubbles. Some varieties, notably Axe, are also showing yellows symptoms which can be confused with yellow leaf spot from a distance. These latter symptoms typically display as yellowing back from the leaf tip and are not caused by any disease whereas yellow leaf spot has yellow lesions with tan centres scattered across lower leaves.

Pulses

Faba bean diseases increasing

Rust on faba beans has been observed in the Mid North of South Australia and also in Victoria, and chocolate spot on faba beans has been observed on Eyre Peninsula. These diseases will continue to increase, particularly as temperatures are reaching 20°C. Fungicides will be necessary to control diseases and reduce yield loss. Earlier sprays show a better response to disease control.

Crop Watch is an electronic newsletter service provided by SARDI.

If you would like to receive this newsletter please send your email address to Jon Lamb, Jon Lamb Communications jlcom@chariot.net.au - titled "Crop Watch request".



FEEDBACK WELCOME

The SARDI Pathology team invites you to contribute to this publication by reporting local observations or commenting on items in the newsletter.

Unless specifically requested otherwise the name and location and/or company of the reporter may be included with published comments.

Reports, particularly of early sightings of rusts or where diagnosis is not certain, would have added value if accompanied by a paper-packed sample. Please do not send samples in plastic bags.

Comments should go to:

Hugh Wallwork (cereals)
hugh.wallwork@sa.gov.au,

Jenny Davidson (pulses and oilseeds)
jenny.davidson@sa.gov.au

with a copy to
Jon Lamb Communications
jlcom@chariot.net.au