

California Wheat

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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 2007 Wheat Bulletin may be accessed on the California Wheat Commission website:
www.californiawheat.org*

Crop Comments

5-2-07 "To summarize previous reports, the growing season in California has been extremely dry this year. As a result, disease pressure has been low and much later to occur than in 2006. Wheat stripe rust was first detected at the end of the 1st week of April, near heading. The impact even on susceptible varieties is likely to be much less than in 2006. However, conducive conditions (rain showers, cool temperatures) in mid-late April in the Sacramento Valley, particularly Colusa County, have allowed stripe rust to reach very high severity in that area on susceptible varieties not treated with fungicide. I observed Jerry Schmierer's (farm advisor, Colusa /Sutter/ Yuba/ Glenn) fungicide trial near Colusa on May 1. As he has reported, disease levels were severe. My assessment of

the untreated Summit in the trial was infection severity of 80-100% and incidence of 100%. I observed similar high severities on Summit, Blanca Grande, and Solano at the UC Regional Test plots near Grimes in Colusa County on May 1. The crop is in the soft dough stage.

Only trace to low severity levels of wheat stripe rust have developed in the drier San Joaquin Valley as of early May.

California's 2007 wheat variety survey shows that known stripe rust susceptible varieties were planted on about 50% of the wheat acreage in the Sacramento Valley and the San Joaquin Valley.

The disease that has been in most evidence this season on wheat in California is the aphid-transmitted BYDV, which is widespread throughout the state and in moderate severity on susceptible varieties.

I detected high severity *Septoria tritici* blotch on one highly susceptible variety, Joaquin, in nurseries in the Sacramento Valley, despite dry conditions. Joaquin is adapted for the San Joaquin Valley and should not be grown in the Sacramento Valley." *Lee Jackson Extension Specialist, Small Grains Department of Plant Sciences*