

California Wheat

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Weekly Wheat Bulletin

Date: February 8, 2007 Issue# 4

*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*

General Comments:

2-2-07: "Because of the dry conditions, most of the wheat fields have been or are in the process of irrigating. Overall the fields look good following the irrigations. Stands are somewhat non uniform with low emergence where the wheat was planted deeper than 1 inch. I will expect some yield losses in fields with less than ideal populations (< 15-35 plants/ft) plus a late start. The wheat has been under drought stress for some time now and some fields are receiving the second irrigation already, where the first irrigation was applied in November-early December.

Early planted wheat (October-early November) is showing considerable leave yellowing due to cold damage occurring the second weekend in

January. There is concern over the possible yield loss in these fields. Later planted fields appear less affected. Osprey treated fields on these early cold affected fields are showing considerable leave injury and stunting. I think it would be worth trying some nitrogen top-dress or water run applications to try to push new growth.

Most fields are being treated for both broadleaves and grasses." *Steve Wright, Farm Advisor, Tulare and Kings Counties*

2-5-07: "Dryland areas of Eastern Tulare and Northern Kern County have been planted, though very little wheat has emerged. The need for rain is at a critical point." *Jeff Burum, Jim Parsons, John Parsons- Growers – Tulare & Kern County*

Notices:

FSA Audit adding to office workload:

As advised by FSA State Director John Smythe, the audit performed on all USDA programs revealed some gaps in the paperwork kept on file with FSA offices regarding such issues as signatory authority. USDA has mandated that these gaps be corrected and the additional staff time required may delay 2007 signups. Growers are encouraged to complete their signups as soon as possible to avoid missing deadlines later.

Disaster Bill: A disaster bill is actively being pursued in Washington DC. California's Senators, Congressional delegation and agriculture representatives are very engaged in making sure California agriculture is accurately considered. In order, to make sure wheat grower's needs are met, County Agricultural Commissioners need to hear from growers that there may be a problem. Agricultural Commissioners are key to providing accurate crop damage for each county. The California Wheat Commission is often asked for examples of crop damage. Growers may e-mail the Commission with information.

Chloropicrin Task Force Request: It appears that Chloropicrin may be in jeopardy of cancellation by EPA. The Chloropicrin Task Force is asking for help from growers in collecting data on the various uses of this product in California. If there are growers of wheat seed that would be willing to fill out a survey, one is attached to this bulletin. Surveys may be faxed to the California Association of Wheat Growers, attention: Rich Matteis, (916) 446-1063. Your help is appreciated.

Photos:

Below: Wheat planted for forage. Tulare County. Planting date 9/28/06. Observed symptoms (yellowness on top, green on bottom) are probably frost damage. Young, rapidly growing tissue at the time that temperatures fall below freezing are particularly vulnerable. Photo provided by Geoff Schulz, comments provided by Lee Jackson, UC Cooperative Extension.



