CEREAL RUST BULLETIN

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- Wheat stem rust was found in plots in southwestern Georgia.
- Wheat leaf rust is present in the northern Great Plains.
- Wheat stripe rust is light in the Great Plains.
- Oat crown rust first appeared near the buckthorn nursery.

The small grain harvest is underway from Georgia to Oklahoma. Winter wheat is at normal crop development stage in the central plains. Most of the spring grain in the northern plains is at average maturity.

Wheat stem rust. In mid-May, light wheat stem rust was found in southwestern Georgia plots at Plains. To date wheat stem rust has been reported at sites in southwestern Georgia, north central Texas and southwestern Louisiana.

Wheat leaf rust. In mid-May, light leaf rust was found in fields and plots in central Kansas. During the third week in May, 1% severities were observed on flag leaves of susceptible cultivars in northeastern Kansas plots. In mid-May, light leaf rust was found on lower leaves of wheat plants in research plots in central Nebraska. Hot dry weather slowed leaf rust development in the southern and central Great Plains the last part of May.

On May 26, 5% severities were found on flag-2 leaves in susceptible winter wheat plots in Dakota County in east central Minnesota.

In mid-May, 60% severities were found in susceptible soft red winter wheat cultivars in northern Alabama plots. By mid-May, wheat leaf rust was widespread and severities up to 65% were reported on susceptible cultivars McCormick [Lr24] and USG3209 [Lr26], in plots on the eastern shore of Virginia, which may result in significant losses in the area. This year wheat leaf rust development is greater than normal in the Mid-Atlantic states.

In mid-May, leaf rust severities up to 80% were observed in susceptible cultivar plots in Kern county and Madera County, California late in the season.

Wheat stripe rust. On May 22, traces of wheat stripe rust were found on the flag leaves of susceptible cultivars in plots at Manhattan, Kansas. On May 26, 10% stripe rust severities were found on flag leaves of susceptible winter wheat in east central Minnesota plots. At both of these locations spores were deposited with rain showers in the past 2 weeks. In late May, hot dry weather slowed rust development in these areas.

In mid-May, wheat stripe rust was found in Limestone county plots in north central Alabama. In mid-May, hotspots of stripe rust were found in wheat plots in the eastern shore of Virginia and Maryland.

Heavy stripe rust was reported in commercial fields in the Albermarle/Pamilico Sounds region in east central North Carolina in early May.

By late May, wheat stripe rust was severe throughout the Central Valley of California. The two most widely grown cultivars, Summit and Blanca Grande, are now both fully susceptible to the races of stripe rust that occur in California. Statewide, yield losses to wheat stripe rust may approach 15% this season.

On May 22, stripe rust was found in a field in Franklin County, in southeastern Idaho, which is about 6 miles north of the Idaho-Utah border. Pustules were just beginning to show on the flag leaves and entire plants had small chlorotic areas that could develop into a severe outbreak.

Oat stem rust. In mid-May, 20-100% severities were found in oat lines at the McGregor nursery in central Texas. This was the most oat stem rust seen at the McGregor nursery in many years. In mid-May, light oat stem rust was found in the Plains, Georgia plots. In mid-May, 10% stem rust severities were found in a forage oat field in Madera County in California.

Oat crown rust. In late May, crown rust made its initial appearance in oat plots near the buckthorn nursery at St. Paul, Minnesota.

In mid-May, 40% severities were observed in plots in northern Alabama and 20% severities in a field in Fresno County, California.

Barley stem rust. There have been no reports of barley stem rust this year.

Barley leaf rust. In mid-May, barley leaf rust was widespread and severe in nurseries in eastern Virginia and eastern Maryland. In mid-May, a 100% severity was reported on a susceptible cultivar in a nursery in Merced County, California.

Stripe rust on barley. By mid-May, wheat stripe rust was found on susceptible cultivars in nurseries throughout the Central Valley of California. Rust was also found in a few fields.

Barley crown rust. There have been no reports of crown rust on barley yet this year.

Rye leaf rust. In mid-May, 20% leaf rust severities were observed in rye fields in north central Oklahoma.

Rye stem rust. There have been no reports of rye stem rust this year.

Stem rust on barberry. In mid-May, aecial development was light on infected susceptible barberry bushes (alternate host for stem rust) growing in south central Wisconsin.

Fig. 1. Leaf rust severities in wheat fields - May 30, 2006

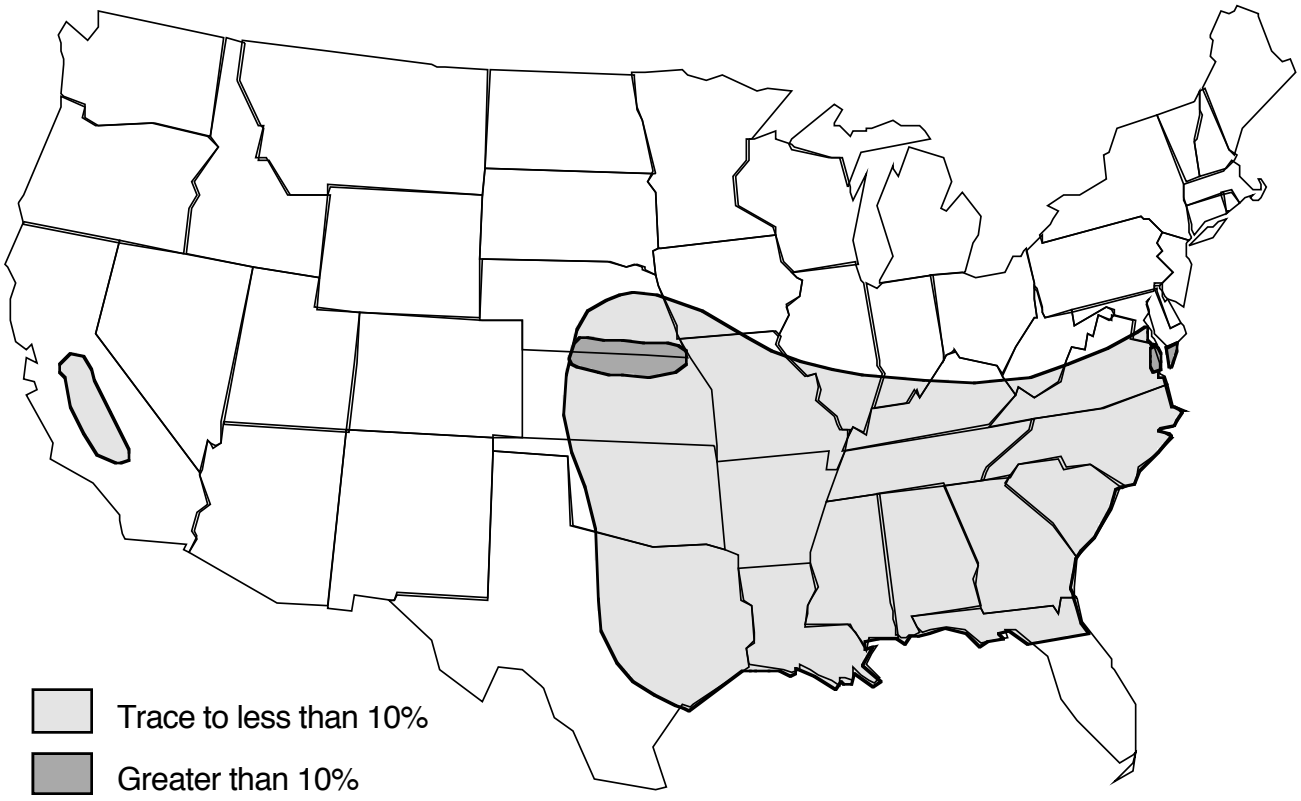

Fig. 2. Stripe rust severities in wheat fields - May 30, 2006