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Cereal Rust Report Season 2004

Stripe Rust Alert for 2004

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(on secondment from NSW Department of Primary Industries)

Western Australia

The first samples of wheat stripe rust received at the Cereal Rust Laboratory, PBI Cobbitty, were collected by Tim Kensett-Smith in a Westonia crop near Merredin on 14th July. A recent sample, collected on 27th July, was from a crop of H45 growing near Esperance.

Eastern Australia

Out of season wheat fields at Naracoorte SA (late March) and Horsham VIC (early April) were noted to be infected with wheat stripe rust. Samples collected from both locations were shown to have pathotype 134 E 16 A+ (WA pathotype).

Stripe rust samples on two crops growing near Campbell Town, Tasmania, were collected by Geoff Dean in early June. The pathotype was again shown to be the WA form, ie 134 E16 A+.

The first report of stripe rust in main season wheat crops in eastern Australia was received late on 30th July from Steve Nicholson. The affected crops of

Whistler and Diamondbird are in the Caragabal area, west of Grenfell, in southern NSW. Rust samples were received at Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute on 3rd August and the diagnosis confirmed by Dr Gordon Murray (NSW Department of Primary Industries).

The Whistler crop was sown on February rain and, in contrast to a majority of early sowings of this variety in central and southern NSW, survived the ravages of locust grazing. When stripe rust was observed in Whistler, the crop was tillering and infection was not difficult to find. An adjacent field of Diamondbird at the 3-4 leaf stage was also noted to be infected. Dr Murray considered that the infection events in the Diamondbird crop probably occurred in the last 3 weeks. Disease control options for this initial outbreak have considered grazing the Whistler field, and possibly combining a relatively inexpensive fungicide (eg Triad®) with a post-emergent herbicide on the Diamondbird paddock.

Advisors and growers are alerted to maintain a close monitor on crops, especially those varieties expected to be susceptible. While it is recognized that protection of the flag leaf is important, the early onset of stripe rust may give cause to consider the application of cheaper fungicides in the node to tillering stages. This should provide disease control in the late winter period, and leave open the possibility of a later application of more expensive fungicides for flag leaf protection when grain yield potential is somewhat more predictable.

The pathotype in the July samples (WA and NSW) remains unclear until test results become available. Observers are encouraged to collect samples of leaves bearing rust symptoms and send them in paper envelopes to:

Cereal Rust Laboratory
Private Bag 11
Camden NSW 2570

General enquiries:

Plant Breeding Institute
Private Bag 11
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107 Cobbitty Road
Cobbitty NSW 2570

Ph: 02-9351 8800 (Reception)
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Cereal rust samples may be collected and posted in paper envelopes to the following address:

Australian Cereal Rust Survey
Plant Breeding Institute
Private Bag 11
Camden NSW 2570

The Australian Cereal Rust Control Program is supported by growers through the Grains Research & Development Corporation.

