
Cereal Rust Report

Season 2005

Rust Alert for the 2005 Cropping Season

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Wheat Leaf Rust

Leaf rust samples were received from Cooma (Monaro region of southern NSW) on 18th May. The varieties were Tennant and MacKellar, which are both long season winter wheats suitable for grazing and grain recovery. In contrast, the first leaf rust samples in 2004 were received in early August.

This crop was considered to have become infected from a nearby Whistler field that was sown much earlier in 2004.

The Tarcutta field of Whistler was sown on February rain, and was intended for early grazing. The grower has been advised to reduce the crop canopy by introducing stock as soon as possible. The extent of early sowings of Whistler is unclear, but we presume that those that were established in February and have survived the dry autumn period may be potential sources of inoculum for main season plantings. Given this scenario, the options concerning pre-plant fungicide applications will be important management considerations if/when opening rains provide sowing opportunities.

Wheat Stripe Rust

The first confirmed sample of wheat stripe rust was collected from a Whistler crop at Tarcutta (60 km east of Wagga Wagga in the south west slopes of New South Wales) during the week beginning 23 May 2005. This represents a very early report of stripe rust for the 2005 winter crop season. In comparison, the first confirmed report in 2004 was collected from a Diamondbird crop in early August.

Rust samples

This alert should serve to remind co-operators to be aware of the possibility of rust infections in commercial fields, and to be actively looking for signs of infection. Cereal rust samples should be sampled when leaves are dry and showing evidence of rust infection. Several leaves can be posted in a paper envelope (no plastic wrapping), including variety details (if known), location of the sample and contact details for correspondence. Samples can be posted to:

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
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General enquiries:

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