May 21, 2015

The rain is so very welcome. However, the weather is very conducive for diseases - in wheat, we have excellent conditions for stripe rust spread, infection and development. In barley, scald, net blotch, and spot form of net blotch are developing.

Stripe rust is reported in western Idaho (Weiser, Parma, etc), and southern Idaho (areas near Twin Falls, Hansen). Stripe rust was also found at the Tetonia Research Station in winter wheat, possibly an overwintering infection in a field that was recently plowed under. Winter wheat fields in western Idaho are in flowering or past flowering, and in many cases are past the window and growth stage where fungicide application is warranted or within label specifications. Please follow label directions and be mindful of Pre-Harvest Interval (PHI) when making applications.

Areas in eastern Idaho should be showing stripe rust soon, and susceptible varieties should be protected with fungicides when applying herbicides (at this point, in spring wheat). I recommend full rates of fungicide for effective protection, especially with these weather conditions that are so very conducive to development of stripe rust. In all susceptible varieties (winter and spring), fungicide protection is highly recommended.

Similar recommendations follow for spring barley. We are seeing diseases developing (such as scald, net blotch, SFNB) that can be effectively controlled with fungicides. If applying herbicides, fungicides can be included to minimize application costs. Normally, I would not make this suggestion for spring barley, but with the weather so favorable for disease, protection and arresting those diseases that have already started can protect against yield losses.

Keep scouting your fields, and please report stripe rust as it occurs!

Barley Yellow Dwarf in Winter Cereals

As winter wheat and winter barley start to head and flower, you may see symptoms flare up again, even in fields that look like they had grown out of visual symptoms. This excellent picture of BYD infected soft white winter wheat was taken today (5-21-15) of a winter wheat field by Dereck Sanderson (Simplot) (Thank you, Dereck!) Wheat streak mosaic virus is also in fields closer to the southern border of Idaho, close to Utah, and in Utah.
Juliet Marshall, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Cereals Pathology and Agronomy

Idaho Falls R&E Center
1776 Science Drive Suite 205
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
208-529-8376 office