CEREAL RUST BULLETIN

Report No.2
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Issued by:

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- Wheat leaf rust is widespread throughout the southern U.S.
- Wheat stripe rust is at low levels in Texas but heavier in Louisiana.
- Oat crown rust is increasing from central Texas to Louisiana.

Wheat stem rust. Wheat stem rust has not been reported in the U.S. as of April 4.

Wheat leaf rust. In late March in central Texas, commercial wheat fields had low levels of leaf rust infections (Fig. 1) and moderate levels in nurseries which had sufficient moisture for rust development due to recent rains. Susceptible cultivars growing in plots that had been irrigated in southern Texas nurseries had high severity levels of leaf rust. However, no leaf rust was found in southern Texas fields because of the drought conditions. In late March, wheat plots in central Oklahoma had low levels of leaf rust.

Wheat leaf rust has been found in fields and plots in the southern soft red winter wheat area from southern Georgia, southern Alabama to southern Arkansas. In late March in wheat plots at Alexandria, Louisiana, 20% leaf rust severities were observed on the lower leaves of susceptible cultivars. Some of the fields infected with rust have been sprayed for rust control in the southern U.S. Leaf rust will continue to increase rapidly with adequate moisture and warm weather, and will provide rust inoculum for the wheat growing areas further north.

In late March, the cultivar McCormick in southeastern North Carolina plots had low levels of leaf rust on lower leaves. This is an early observation for wheat leaf rust in North Carolina and is presumably due to over-wintering in that area.

Wheat stripe rust. In late March, wheat fields and plots in southern and central Texas had low levels of wheat stripe rust infections (Fig. 2). When compared to last year at this time, stripe rust is much lighter throughout Texas. Weather conditions have not been favorable for rust development (limited moisture and few cool nights) in Texas. By the end of March no stripe rust had been reported in Oklahoma.

In late March, stripe rust was active in Louisiana and some fields were sprayed for rust control. In wheat plots in south central Louisiana, susceptible cultivars had 60% stripe rust severities. Higher

day and night temperatures during the last week of March slowed stripe rust development. In late March, stripe rust was light in fields in southern Arkansas.

Oat stem rust. There have been no new reports of oat stem rust since CRB #1.

Oat crown rust. In late March, low levels of crown rust were found in the drought area of southern Texas. In early April, oat crown rust was increasing on susceptible cultivars and severities as high as 80-100% were observed in College Station plots in central Texas. Crown rust is increasing throughout central Texas and will provide inoculum for the oat growing areas further north.

Buckthorn. Buds on buckthorn, the alternate host for oat crown rust, have not yet started to break dormancy in the buckthorn nursery at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Barley stem rust. As of April 4, no barley stem rust has been reported in the U.S.

Barley leaf rust. In late March, light levels of barley leaf rust were found on susceptible lines in a southeastern North Carolina plot.

Stripe rust on barley. There have been no new reports of barley stripe rust since CRB #1.

Rye rusts. In late March, light levels of leaf rust were observed on rye in central Texas plots.

Fig. 1. Leaf rust severities in wheat fields - April 4, 2006

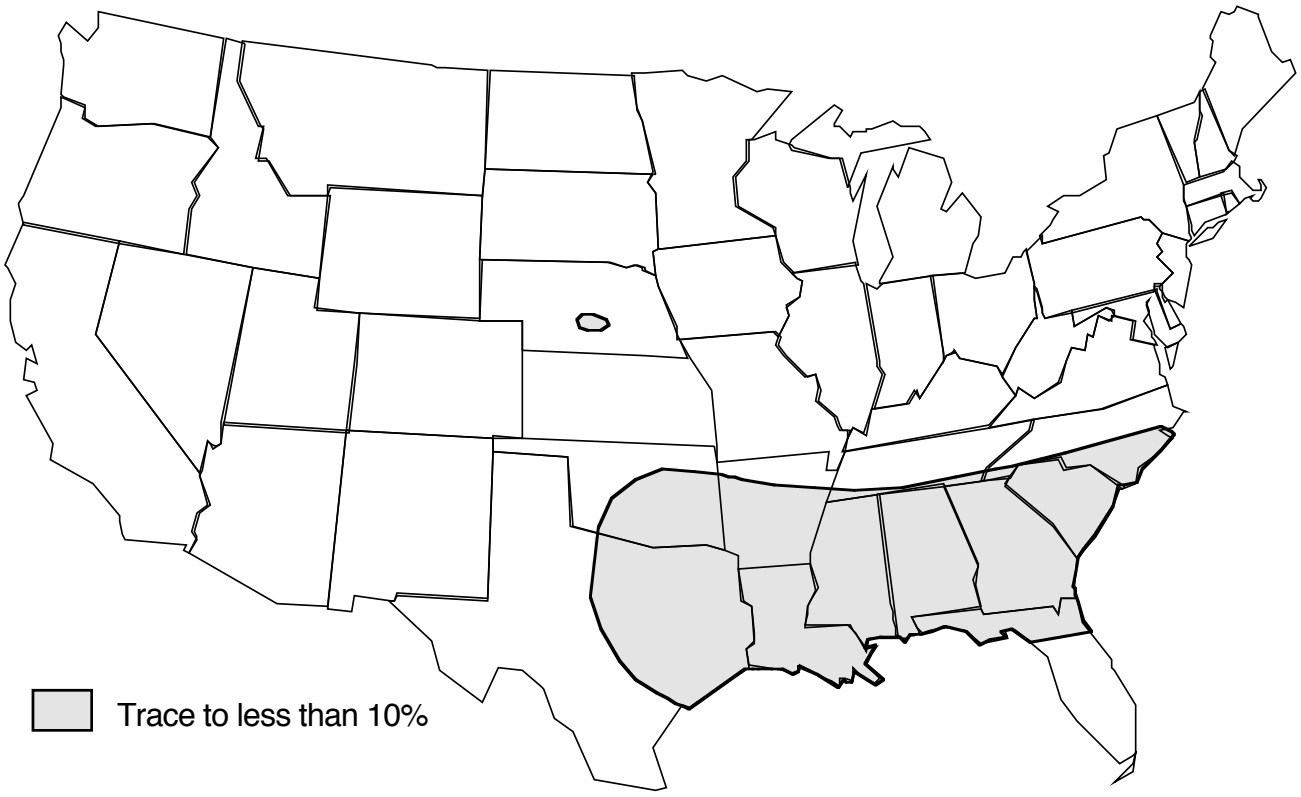

Fig. 2. Stripe rust severities in wheat fields - April 4, 2006