



Small Grains

Management Program for Powdery Mildew of Wheat

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Cause and Occurrence

Cause: *Blumeria graminis* f. sp. *tritici* (formerly *Erysipha graminis* f. sp. *tritici*) Occurrence: May to July, during periods of overcast, humid, moderate weather

Key Symptoms

Most conspicuous on upper leaf surfaces and heads; also present on stems. Heads on the later, shorter tillers can become heavily diseased because they remain lower in the wheat canopy where humidity is high. Fungus initially forms cottony white patches which later turn light gray or buff-color. When severe, individual patches often merge and cover large areas of the leaf surface and head. Leaf tissue on the opposite side of the mildew pustules becomes yellow, later turning tan or brown. As the season progresses the older, gray colonies of powdery mildew become dotted with small black bodies called cleistothecia.

Cultural Management Practices

In most years powdery mildew will not be a yield limiting disease in Nebraska; however, sporadic widespread, moderately severe outbreaks may occur as in 2004. Dense stands of heavily fertilized, irrigated wheat are most prone to mildew. In Nebraska some of the better yielding and more popular wheat varieties are susceptible to powdery mildew; so growing mildew resistant varieties is an option, but rust resistance (definitely stem and possibly leaf and stripe) is the top priority in selecting disease resistant varieties. Use a balanced fertility program based on soil test analysis. Heavy applications of N and high seeding rates produce a dense canopy that favors mildew development.

Fungicide Treatment Program (Table 1)

Scout fields for mildew, rust and other leaf diseases and assess incidence and severity from tiller elongation through flowering. It is important to keep disease levels on the top two leaves (flag and flag-1 leaves) and the head to a minimum to prolong the grain filling period. Base the decision to spray the field on the level of disease present, susceptibility of the variety, stage of development, the potential yield and the current selling price of the grain.

*Table 1. Fungicides registered for foliar diseases of wheat.**

Product	Rate/acre	Timing
Quilt (azoxystrobin + propiconazole) (Syngenta)	7-14 fl oz	Up to Feekes 9 (ligule of flag leaf just visible) growth stage
Quadris (azoxystrobin) (Syngenta)	6.2 - 10.8 fl oz	Feekes 6 (immediately after jointing) to 10.5 (late head emergence)
Headline (pyraclostrobin) (BASF)	9 fl oz	Feekes 10.5 (late head emergence)
Stratego (propiconazole + trifloxystrobin) (Bayer)	10 oz	Feekes 8 (emerging flag leaf)
Tilt (propionazole) (Syngenta)	4 fl oz	Feekes 8 (emerging flag leaf)
PropiMax EC (propiconazole) (Dow AgroSciences)	4 fl oz	Feekes 8 (emerging flag leaf) Has a Section 24C label to apply up to Feekes 10.5 in Nebraska
Manzate 75DF (mancozeb) (Griffin L.L.C.)	2 lb	Feekes 10 (boot) and again at Feekes 10.5 (late head emergence)
Dithane DF F-45 M-45 (mancozeb) (Dow AgroSciences)	2.1 lb 1.6 qts. 2 lb	Feekes 10 (boot) and again at 10.5 (late head emergence)
Pencozeb 80WP 75DF (mancozeb) (Elf Atochem)	1-2 lb 1-2 lb	Feekes 10 (boot) and again at 10.5 (late head emergence)

*Fungicides listed represent the best information available. No criticism is intended of products not listed, nor is endorsement by the University of Nebraska given to those listed.

Application

Apply sufficient spray solution to ensure good coverage of the leaf surface.

Read and follow all label directions for mixing and applications. Apply fungicides in sufficient enough water to ensure good coverage of the leaves and heads.

Categories: Disease, Powdery Mildew, Wheat

Date: 06/16/2005

Supported in part by:

Western Region IPM Center, EPA Region VIII, National Plant Diagnostic Network, Great Plains Diagnostic Network, USDA CSREES, Colorado State University, Montana State University, South Dakota State University, the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, and the University of Wyoming.