



Weekly Wheat Bulletin

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The Weekly Wheat Bulletin is designed to share quick, informal and reliable information about the state's wheat crop and disease conditions. Comments forwarded by Thursday morning of each week will be posted in the Bulletin for distribution Thursday evening. Archived copies of the 2008 Wheat Bulletin may be accessed on the California Wheat Commission website:
www.californiawheat.org

For those of you that are new to our mailing list, the length of this bulletin will change from week to week. The amount of material is dependent on the contributions of our readers.

Comments:

5.19.08 – “Wheat planting approximately 90% complete. Planting started a week later than normal but is now ahead of average. Net acres of Soft White are up and Hard Red acres are down over the last 2 years.

The cold, dry spring is causing concern with slow and spotty emergence. The crop needed the sun and warmer temperatures of the past week however that has meant irrigation has started earlier than normal.” *J W Cope - Winema Elevators Inc, Tulelake CA*

5.20.08 – “Hot weather marks end of

Central Valley's wheat stripe rust epidemic. Cool conditions were favorable for continued development of wheat stripe in California's Central Valley and surrounding areas through the middle of May. Several varieties that were not infected earlier in the season (through the 3rd week of April, when many known susceptible varieties had severe infections at several sites in the Valley) had susceptible infection types in mid-May, indicating that new races of the stripe rust fungus have become established.

Additional evidence for new races is provided by the disease reactions of entries in the wheat stripe rust screening nurseries (USDA's wheat and barley stripe rust initiative program) at the UC Davis Agronomy Farm. Many entries in the screening nurseries had final disease severities of 60-100%, including a substantial number of entries that showed no infection, or only trace infection, through the 3rd week of April. Five consecutive days of extremely hot weather (high 90's and 100's) beginning on May 15 terminated the stripe rust epidemic and hastened the Central Valley's crop toward maturity.”

On another topic, I did not see any wheat leaf rust infection in California's Central Valley this season.” *Lee Jackson, UC Cooperative Extension Specialist, Small Grains*

5.21.08 – “Dryland HRW (Joaquin variety) harvesting around Coalinga area. First 10-

15 truck loads averaged 60lb test weight, 15-17% protein. Test weight 4-5# better than years past and protein 1-2% higher. Irrigated acres cutting southern Kern Co. Arvin/Edison area and south of Corcoran.”
Mike Holdsworth, Western Milling, Goshen CA

5.22.08 – “Wheat and triticale silage harvest is going full speed. Yields are very high with little disease and mild weather and are expected to be at similar levels as last season. It was hard to watch many wheat for grain fields dry prematurely because of a shortage of irrigation water to have a strong finish. Growers had to decide which crops were most critical during the last couple weeks.” *Steve Wright, Farm Advisor- Tulare and Kings Counties-Cotton, Small Grains & Weed Control, University of California Cooperative Extension*

