

California Wheat

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Weekly Wheat Bulletin

Date: February 7, 2008 Issue# 3

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:

2.7.08 - "The wheat crop is starting to take shape in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley, as we are starting to see the quality of red, white and durum wheat stands. Growers are (and should be) planning for their second application of fertilizer as well as looking ahead to applications in the boot-to-flower stages to ensure that they make protein minimums as all indications are that there will be heavy penalties for low protein.

Accumulated rainfall (November-January) in this end of the valley has

varied from 2.5 inches in Kern County to 9.5 inches in Dos Palos, so depending on a grower's location, there have been some definite adjustments to the timings and amounts of irrigation and fertilization. There is already significant lodging in some of the early planted forage wheat fields in the Tulare area due to heavy rains in conjunction with the early planting and high fertility." *Geoff Schulz, Penny-Newman Grain Company*

2.7.08 - "I've spent the last two afternoons observing field experiments (Small Grain Evaluation Program) in Yolo and Colusa counties in the Sacramento Valley. The experiments include many of the different varieties available to California wheat growers, including varieties that are resistant and those that are susceptible to the major wheat diseases in California. Currently, the wheat plants are in the mid-to-late tillering stage and all are disease-free.

I did observe a 20-foot wide by ½ mile long strip of volunteer wheat along a farm road in Colusa County. The volunteer wheat has already headed, and shows a moderate-high severity of Septoria tritici leaf blotch. The volunteer stand will serve as a reservoir of inoculum (spores) that likely will spread and infect the current season's wheat field located across the road from the volunteer plants. An important general disease control practice that is appropriate for several of our important

wheat diseases is to destroy volunteer wheat plants before they are infected and become reservoirs of inoculum.

If you are just starting to observe your fields after the wet, cold weather we've had, you'll likely observe a variety of leaf spots, leaf necroses, leaf tip burn and other disorders. Most of these are caused by abiotic factors (freeze/thaw cycles, herbicide drift, water-logged soil, etc.). A good reference to help you identify and diagnose disorders that you observe is Part 14 of the on-line Small Grain Manual, "Troubleshooting Small Grain Production – An Identification Guide to Field Problems in Small Grains" that I've attached to this Bulletin." *Lee Jackson, UC Cooperative Extension Specialist, Small Grains*

Industry Information:

2.6.08 - "Stratego Fungicide is now registered on oats and barley in CA at 7 oz/acre. In addition to this, our application timing on wheat has been extended from Feekes scale 8 to Feekes scale 10.5 (full head emergence). The rate on wheat is 10 oz/acre. Optimal timing for applications is before disease pressure infests the flag leaf. With grain prices being what they are, growers will be more timely in their fungicide sprays if needed. UC Ex agents have found existing rust colonies in wheat fields in N CA before the recent rains. Stratego gives you 2 active ingredients that are both effective against the major cereal diseases in CA.

RELY 200 HERBICIDE is now registered in CA. We will be using up the Rely 120 inventory before converting to the new formulation. This may take

until sometime in March. Rely 200 will give growers at 5 pints/acre the same weed control they were getting with 8 pints/acre of Rely 120. In addition to apples, grapes, walnuts, pecans, pistachios, almonds, (all tree nuts), the Rely 200 formulation is also registered in CA for potato desiccation.

Both these labels should be up on Agrarian and CDMS very soon if not already. " *Rod Hallam, Bayer CropScience*

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