

California Wheat

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CWC Wheat Bulletin

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The Weekly Wheat Bulletin is designed to share quick and informal information about the state's wheat crop and disease conditions. Comments are advisory in nature and designed to give growers a "heads up" to be alert for similar conditions. Comments forwarded by Thursday morning of each week will be posted in the Bulletin for distribution Thursday evening. Archived copies of the 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

3.17.09 – “Green Chopping has started in Southern San Joaquin Valley. Wheat plants look healthy. Seeing a lot of aphid activity, growers need to be aware and treat if necessary.” *Mike Holdsworth, Western Milling, Goshen CA*

3.18.09 - “Everything looks great in the Fresno area on crop conditions. The markets are still over \$6.00 per bu. It looks like the dry conditions in the Southwest are still an issue and need to be watched before booking any wheat for producers. 33% of the Texas crop is rated "very poor" and 24% is rated "poor". It looks like Australia is up to its old games and making all of the wheat export sales to Iraq rather than the U.S.” *Jason Nearn, Wheat Merchandiser, Penny-Newman Grain*

3.18.09 - “The water shortage in the San Joaquin Valley is taking a toll on the wheat crop. I have had a number of growers now with fields that were intended for grain being green-chopped for silage this week and in the upcoming weeks. Many districts are standing by their 0% allocation promise, leaving growers little choice but to abandon their wheat crop to save water for tomatoes and other crops. This is not the case in every district, but the reality is that there will be a significant portion of this year’s wheat crop that will be shorted water at the end of the season, with a strong possibility of test weight and overall yield being affected.

On the positive side, fertilizer prices are continuing to come down, so many growers are applying the appropriate amount of fertilizer. With the crop in the boot to early heading stages, it is important to be ramping up nitrogen applications at this time.” *Geoff Schulz Penny-Newman Grain Company, Fresno CA*

3.19.09 – “We found our first signs of stripe rust in our UC Davis plots. The infection, so far, is in only our borders (our most susceptible varieties). So far the infection area is small, but within a week or two, I expect just about anything that can be affected, will be. Also, we are seeing trace amounts of septoria starting to show. We have not seen anything major, but it’s worth keeping an eye on.” *Phil Mayo, UC Davis, Small Grains Program*

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