

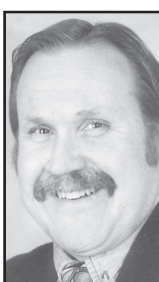
May is a critical time for wheat foliar fungicides

As of early May the races of leaf rust that are attacking some plants are now present in the southern parts of the state, and moving north. May is a critical time to look at any foliar fungicides for wheat.

Looking at current disease pressure, varietal resistance, and yield potential can help decide treatment. Research suggests the best time to apply a foliar fungicide is between flag leaf emergence and up to flowering. Most labels will prevent application to wheat that has reached the fully headed or flowering stage. Some fungicides can be applied as late as flowering. Assuming statewide research that has showed 4 percent to 13 percent yield response to treatment, one can estimate a quick and easy evaluation.

On average, statewide K-State Research has shown that on varieties of wheat that are very susceptible to diseases and during

Views
with Van
Keith VanSkiel,
Extension
Director



high risk situations—one can see an average of about 10 percent yield increase over non treated fields.

Typically the recommendation is to consider treatment if you feel your yield potential may be at or greater than the 40 bushel mark, or you are producing seed wheat or you have very susceptible varieties and optimum rust conditions.

A field would be a candidate for a fungicide application of it is at the flag leaf emergence through heading stages of growth. If leaf rust becomes established on the flag leaf prior to heading, yield

losses may exceed 30 percent in susceptible varieties.

In this situation, the next generation of lesions is already developing within the plants, and considerable damage to the leaf tissue has already occurred. Many products are locally systemic which means they will be rain fast as soon as they dry on the leaves but will not move into parts of the plant that are not covered by the fungicide. Most fungicides in Kansas are either the “strobilurin” or “triazole” class and some are combinations of the two. Both classes will be good at correcting “new” infections but the triazoles have a stronger curative action for especially stripe rust.

With the help of the USDA rust lab we have looked at the Norton County plots and although the data is several years old it does show some interesting facts. From 1999-2004 in our previous plots the average increase over

treatment versus not treating was a benefit of 7.5 bushels. Some years the difference was not in favor of using fungicide and some of it was a benefit.

Again, for fields with higher disease pressure, higher yield potential and higher selling price the economics are more attractive to a fungicide treatment for wheat. Wheat varieties that are susceptible to leaf and stripe rust are Jagger, Jagalene, Overly, 2137 and Tam 112. Varieties that are susceptible to stripe rust and moderately susceptible to leaf rust are Fuller, Post Rock, Santa Fe, Smoky Hill, Hitch and Art.

Cedar Apple Rust

This time of year the very prevalent fungus disease will begin to show in the juniper related trees. With warmer temperatures and some higher humidity or rain, we will see the orange jelly like galls form on the juniper trees. These rarely cause severe damage but

can become very thick on a tree and interrupt needle growth. The fungus is now passing from the Juniper trees to species of crab apple or apple trees. When it then harbors in these tree species it can cause some loss in the foliage and fruit if it is extremely heavy on trees.

The main concern is for the control of the disease on the apple trees. The current treatment is to remove the orange galls from the juniper trees if it is not too overwhelming of a job. The galls die when removed.

The other best treatment is to treat the foliage of the apple or crab apple with a fungicide that has cedar-apple rust specifically on its label. Some ingredients are ferbam, maneb or mancozeb, chlorothalonil and triflorine are among a few that you may find. Follow the label guidelines but usually applications are needed about every 10 days from late

April to early June on the apple tree foliage.

It does not really make any difference about planting distance between juniper types and apples. The fungus can travel by wind for a half mile or more.

Fertilize Peonies

Peonies do all their major growth in the spring before and at bloom. Their prime time for extra fertility need is early spring. Applying a low grade (10 to 20 percent nitrogen) fertilizer at a rate of 2 to 3 tablespoons now and in the fall after dormancy will really do wonders! Never apply fertilizer to crown—but place fertilizer around the soil about 8-18” from the crown and scratch it in.

For more information, contact K-State Research and Extension, Twin Creeks District – Norton County Office at 785-877-5755 or Decatur County Office at 785-475-5755.

Council encourages simple eye care precautions during summer

With summer approaching, people will be spending more time outdoors. And while many Kansans are aware of the need to protect their skin from excessive sun exposure, they need to remember to protect their eyes as well.

The ultraviolet (UV) radiation in sunshine can lead to severe eye problems, even blindness, but research shows a lack of awareness of the risk.

In fact, according to the American Optometric Association’s American Eye-Q® survey, only one-third of Americans said UV protection is the most important factor they consider when purchasing sunglasses.

Whether it’s cloudy or sunny, summer or winter, the Eye Care Council urges Kansans residents to take measures to protect their eyes from the sun’s UV rays in order to decrease the risk of eye diseases and disorders.

“Overexposure to UV rays is quite serious and can lead to cataracts, macular degeneration, or, in some cases, skin cancer around the eyelids,” said Dr. Julie Toon, a

Wichita optometrist and president of the Eye Care Council.

“Other disorders that can occur are abnormal growths on the eye’s surface and even sunburn of the eyes. These conditions can cause blurred vision, irritation, redness, tearing, temporary vision loss and, in some instances, blindness.”

Even more concerning is the lack of awareness surrounding the potential effects of overexposure to UV radiation. According to the American Eye-Q® survey, 35 percent of adults are unaware of the eye health risks associated with spending too much time in the sun without the proper protection.

The following top five tips from the Eye Care Council may help prevent eye and vision damage from overexposure to UV radiation:

- Wear protective eyewear any time the eyes are exposed to UV rays, even on cloudy days and during the winter.
- Look for quality sunglasses or contact lenses that offer good protection. Sunglasses or protective contact lenses should block 99

to 100 percent of UV-A and UV-B radiation and screen out 75 to 90 percent of visible light.

• Check to make sure sunglasses lenses are perfectly matched in color and free of distortions or imperfections.

• Purchase gray-colored lenses because they reduce light intensity without altering the color of objects to provide the most natural color vision.

Brown or amber-colored lenses may be better for those who are visually impaired because they increase contrast as well as reduce light intensity.

• Don’t forget protection for young children and teenagers, who typically spend more time in the sun than adults and are at a greater risk for damage.

“The lenses of children’s eyes are more transparent than those of adults, allowing shorter wavelength light to reach the retina,” Toon said. “Because the effects of solar radiation are cumulative, it’s important to develop good protection habits early, such as purchasing proper sunglasses for

young children and teenagers.”

According to the Eye Care Council, parents should purchase sunglasses for all children, including infants.

The American Eye-Q® survey found that 66 percent of Americans purchase sunglasses for their children, but many do not check to make sure the lenses provide proper UV protection.

Additionally, less than one-third (29 percent) of parents make sure their children wear sunglasses while outdoors.

More information on UV protection

Additional information from the American Optometric Association’s 2009 American Eye-Q® survey, which identified Americans’ attitudes and behaviors regarding eye care and related issues, includes:

- While just over one-third of Americans said UV protection was the most important factor when purchasing sunglasses, the other factors respondents said were important included comfort/fit (26 percent), price (18 percent),

style (15 percent) or lens color (3 percent).

• 73 percent of survey respondents have worn lenses (contacts lenses or eyeglasses) that provide UV protection.

• 38 percent of respondents wear prescription sunglasses.

• 42 percent of respondents do not wear sunglasses during the winter months.

• 66 percent of parents do not make sure their children wear sunglasses during winter months.

A good way to monitor eye health, maintain good vision and keep up to date on the latest in UV protection is to schedule periodic comprehensive eye exams with an eye doctor. The Eye Care Council recommends adults age 60 and

under have a comprehensive eye exam every two years and then annually thereafter. Based on an individual’s eye health, the optometrist may recommend more frequent visits.

For additional information on UV protection, please visit: <http://www.AmericanOptometricAssociation.org/x4735.xml>. Or to view a copy of the American Optometric Association’s Shopping Guide for Sunglasses, please visit: <http://AmericanOptometricAssociation.org/documents/SunglassShoppingGuide0810.pdf>. For a list of Kansas Eye Care Council members, go to: <http://www.seetolearn.com/memberlist.html>.

Colby, Belleville to host 1930’s Chautauqua

Colby and Belleville will host the Kansas Humanities Council’s Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties Chautauqua in June.

The festival of learning will be in Colby at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin Avenue.

The festival will be held June 2-6, 2010 and in Belleville at the Belleville Farm and Home Lot, 1825 N Street (19th and N Street), June 9-13, 2010.

Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties explores the economic uncertainty, government programs, environmental devastation and artistic movements of the 1930s.

The event features first-person portrayals of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Senator Huey Long of Louisiana, Pentecostal leader Aimee Semple McPherson, Harlem Renaissance writer and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston and humorist Will Rogers.

Humanities professionals will portray these famous figures of the 1930s under the Chautauqua tent each evening Thursday through Sunday.

Following each evening’s presentation, the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions of the famous historical figures as well as the scholar who created the portrayal.

“The themes explored in this Chautauqua are as timely today as they were in the 1930s,” observed Julie Mulvihill, executive director of the Kansas Humanities Council.

“Colby and Belleville audiences can expect a lively discussion of historical and contemporary topics under the Chautauqua tent.”

The Chautauqua also features daily adult workshops and youth programs, including a Youth Chautauqua Day Camp.

At the five-day camp, young people (grades 5-8) will be historians, researchers and scriptwriters as they prepare to present their own historical characters under the Chautauqua tent.

The camp is presented by Ride into History, a historical perfor-

mance touring troupe.

From the late 19th century to the first decades of the 20th century, touring Chautauquas combined oratory and lectures about national events with literary readings and musical entertainment that entertained and informed people about political and cultural happenings.

For more than 25 years, the Kansas Humanities Council has brought the traditions of the historic Chautauqua to towns and rural communities across the state.

Beginning in 1983, Kansas Humanities Council revived the Chautauqua movement, and over 50 communities have hosted the contemporary Chautauqua, playing host to the famous and infamous from American history.

The modern-day Chautauqua has a lasting impact on all who attend, observed longtime Chautauquan Fred Krebs, who portrays Huey Long in the upcoming event.

He added, “Chautauqua is a moving experience because it al-

lows community members to find connections with one another.”

Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties Chautauqua is presented by the Kansas Humanities Council in partnership with the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Nebraska Humanities Council.

The Chautauqua is supported by We the People, a grant initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Kansas Humanities Council is a nonprofit cultural organization that conducts and supports community-based programs, serves as a financial resource through an active grant-making program and encourages Kansans to participate in their communities.

For a complete schedule of Chautauqua events, contact the Kansas Humanities Council at 785/357-0359, or visit www.kansashumanities.org.

Highway project set

A project to resurface US-83 Highway from the Logan/Scott county line to Oakley will begin as early as May 13.

The 29-mile job to resurface the highway will be done under a pilot car operation, causing a delay up to 15 minutes in duration for the traveling public.

“The micro-surfacing project mixes asphalt - using sand, cement and oil, and will be applied during two processes by the contractors.

“The first pass will fill the ruts and then the second pass will cover the entire lane,” explains Kansas Department of Transportation Construction Engineer Mathew Withington, of the Atwood Area Two Construction Office.

Prime contractor Ballou Construction Co., of Salina, is in charge of the \$2.5 million project.

“As always, we ask that the public exercise caution while driving through a Kansas work zone,” reminds Kansas Department of Transportation Public Affairs Manager Kristen Brands.

“Please be alert for the workers and signs when entering any highway work zone,” Brands said.

For questions concerning this road construction project, contact Kristen Brands at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org, or Area Two Engineer Eric Oelschlagler or erico@ksdot.org at (785) 626-3258 in Atwood.

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