Aphids and Powdery Mildew scouted in wheat fields

Wheat is nearing joint stage and is ten to twelve inches tall in most area fields. This is according to Jill Scheidt, agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension, who scouted fields in Arcola and near JJ Hwy, near Golden City on April 1.

“The joint stage has not begun yet but should this week or next. Just before joint stage occurs is the appropriate time to add nitrogen in order to see the biggest yield benefit,” said Scheidt. “Only add nitrogen before the joint stage, in January or February, if tiller population is below 80 tillers per square foot.”

Scheidt observed bird cherry-oat (olive green in color), and greenbug aphids (pale green in color), in wheat fields.

“One to two bird cherry oat aphids were seen per linear foot, threshold levels are 12-15 per linear foot. Five to six greenbug aphids per tiller were observed, threshold levels are 300-500 per linear foot,” said Scheidt.

Scheidt recommends using 1.3 to 1.9oz/acre of Warrior or 3.2 to 4oz/acre of Mustang to control aphids at threshold levels. Consult the MU Extension 2015 Pest Management Guide for specific pesticide instructions.

Scheidt also observed a small amount of powdery mildew in lush growing wheat. Powdery mildew occurs in prolonged cloudy weather with temperatures from 59-72 degrees Fahrenheit and is also associated with high nitrogen applications.

Powdery mildew begins as light-green to yellow flecks on the leaf surface and develops into a cottony white mold growth, and small black fungal fruiting bodies may be visible within the patches of mildew growth.

“Powdery mildew is mainly a concern when the flag leaf is present and when the disease is moving up the plant, toward the flag leaf or if it is very dense on plants,” said Scheidt. Caramba, Tilt or Quilt can be used to control powdery mildew.

More Information
The weekly field scouting report is sponsored by University of Missouri and Barton County Extension. For more information on the scouting report, or to learn how to receive the information earlier by telephone, contact the Barton County Extension Center at (417) 682-3579.