

Scout Wheat Fields for Stripe Rust

Stripe rust has caused severe damage to winter wheat fields in northwest Missouri in the past two years. It is critical that growers scout fields for this disease.

Stripe rust prefers cool humid weather and disease development is severe between 50 to 60 degrees F. The disease slows when daytime temperatures are in the mid-80s.

The symptoms are long stripes of small yellow or orange blister like lesions. The disease occurs on leaves and less on stems. The spores look like orange dust.

Foliar fungicides can be used to control strip rust. Apply fungicides when the crop is at the boot stage of development. The strobilurin class of fungicide provides excellent activity before infection of the disease. After infection, use a trazole class of fungicides, which will have a curative effect.

Fungicides should be applied when the disease is found on the upper leaves prior to heading. If the disease is on the lower leaves, continue to scout as the disease moves quickly.

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