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Views With Van

Wheat Rust

Reports of stripe rust in central and eastern Kansas continue early. The diseases can explode with favorable weather conditions over the weekend, the severity of the infection is likely to increase. The regular leaf rust begins as individual spot lesions. Stripe rust begins in a similar way, but soon will run down along the veins of the wheat. Preventative or curative action is vague. Most are locally systemic and will not move. In other words if you spray and the top leaves are not emerged they will not receive protection from lower stem or leaves. More information about product efficacy can be found in the K-State publication "Foliar Fungicide Efficacy for Wheat Disease Management EP 130". It is important to protect the top leaves of the wheat because these leaves provide the majority of the resources the plants will use to produce grain. Therefore, the most effective fungicides are applied between the time that the flag leaf has fully emerged and up to the flowering stages of growth.

Pine Needle Blight and Tip Blight

Needle blight is a common and serious disease of Austrian and Ponderosa pines planted for windbreak and ornamental purposes. The disease causes premature dropping of pine needles the year following infection. Diseased needles exhibit dark green bands or scattered yellow to tan spots. The spots often enlarge and develop into red bands that encircle the needle. The red bands may be bordered by a light yellow region. The tip of the needle beyond the red band eventually turns brown; the lower base remains green. Infection is most common to one-, two- or three-year-old needles, but current season needles also may show symptoms. Typically, the disease is most severe in the lower portion of the tree crown. Older needles are susceptible

throughout the growing season. Heavy loss of older, inner needles plus the appearance of small black fruiting structures on needles in the spring are good diagnostic symptoms and signs of Dothistroma needle blight. Some copper-containing fungicides can be used for control of Dothistroma needle blight. Two fungicide applications in mid-May and mid-to late-June provide a more complete and dependable control.

Tip blight symptoms first appear in late May or early June. The newly developing shoots (candles) fail to grow. The shoots are stunted, and the emerging needles are stunted and turn yellow or tan. The damage usually starts in the lower part of the tree and works its way up over several years. In late summer or fall, tiny black spore-producing structures (called pycnidia) are formed on the scales of 2-year-old cones—it looks like black pepper has been shaken onto the cones. The critical time for chemical management is when the new shoots are expanding in the spring. Fungicides applied at that time can prevent new disease.

Various copper fungicides are suggested for control of Tip Blight and Needle Blight.