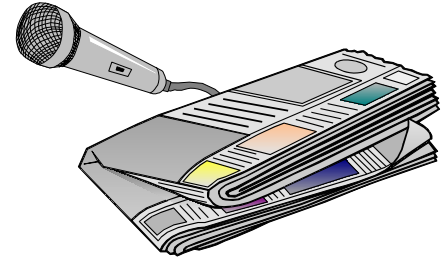




Agriculture Home Economics 4-H

GLENN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION NEWS FLASH



June 24, 2003

Extension Notes - Doug Munier

Wheat Stripe Rust Disease Hits Hard in the Sacramento Valley

New strains of wheat stripe rust disease have reduced wheat yields in other parts of California for several years and finally arrived in the northern Sacramento Valley in full force this year, according to Doug Munier, Glenn County Field Crops Farm Advisor. Wheat stripe rust infections started early in wheat this year and continued over a long period. The extended wet and cool weather this year encouraged wheat stripe rust development and caused severe yield reductions in many fields.

The University of California Cooperative Extension's statewide variety testing program has shown additional wheat varieties each year are becoming susceptible to these new strains of the wheat stripe rust disease. Wheat and barley varieties were tested in three different locations in the northern Sacramento Valley this year as a part of the statewide testing program. In these trials, all existing commercial varieties are tested along with many new experimental varieties. All of these wheat and barley varieties are tested for yield and quality. They are also rated for disease resistance, lodging, shattering, days to maturity and any other important characteristic.

Doug Munier and Jerry Schmierer, Colusa County Field Crops Farm Advisor, have also done four replicated trials evaluating the use of fungicides for the control of wheat stripe rust this year. They also harvested two large scale block comparisons of fungicide treated versus untreated in two grower fields. The yield and quality results of these trials will be available in our September newsletters.

Farm Advisors and Statewide Specialist Lee Jackson are completing their harvests of the 2003 wheat and barley variety and fungicide trials. There are several new varieties which continue to have good resistance to the new strains of wheat stripe rust disease. The results of these trials will be available in the September issue of the Glenn County Cooperative Extension Field Crops newsletter. If you are not on the mailing list for this newsletter, or have let your name be dropped, please contact Glenn County Cooperative Extension at 865-1107 for a copy of this newsletter in September.

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