



Oregon Seed eUPDATE

AN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER FROM THE OREGON SEED COUNCIL ISSUE 2 • JUNE 2012

Regional Reports

NORTH VALLEY. Disease pressure was low through May and mid-June. Some wheat fields looking yellow, but stripe rust is under control this year. There are some aphids in wheat fields (more than seen in previous years). Noticed more lady bugs out there this week than the last two weeks, so maybe they were late to show up and are now feeding on aphids. I have not heard of other major insect problems.

Crimson clover is drying down and will probably start to get cut around the first of July. Overall, the crop looked pretty good this year. All red clover has been flailed or cut for silage and regrowth is occurring now. So far, no major problems disease/insect problems – we will have to wait and see what the pollinators do.

Grass seed crops are looking really good. Spring wheat is getting sprayed for rust and spring oats are getting sprayed for cereal leaf beetles. Winter wheat is starting to dry down and heads are filling. We are watching closely to see if nodorum has any impacts on heads, especially in the variety Skiles.

SOUTH VALLEY. Rust pressure low on most fields of perennial ryegrass and tall fescue. Most perennial ryegrass and tall fescue fields will get by with one to two fungicide sprays. Some die-off or stand loss in spring plantings due to slugs, weather, and other factors. The late planting of spring grain, fescue and radish were aided by timely rain in May and June and harvest of radish is underway. Most spring plantings of wheat look good.



Glume blotch on Skiles wheat.

Less stripe rust pressure on winter wheat this year, but septoria was a concern during the rainy spring. Yellowing on Skiles is common, probably due to *Stagonospora nodorum* blotch (new name for *Septoria nodorum*). Aphid numbers varied in wheat

fields, some low but some fairly high numbers observed in late May/early June which were treated. Appears to be good to fair seed set on meadowfoam. Crop maturity is closer to normal than last year, at least on better drained soils.



A wheat field turning yellow.

HERMISTON AND COLUMBIA BASIN. Kentucky bluegrass harvest will be starting at the end of the month...first week of July. Some stripe rust in the area but developed about ten days later than normal in the sentinel plot at HAREC. High levels of powdery mildew lasted longer due to the cooler weather over the last few weeks. Uncertain at this point when the perennial ryegrass swathing will occur but that will begin soon as well. Ergot levels at this point are unknown. Trapping data (measuring ascospores) at two first year Kentucky bluegrass fields in the southern Columbia Basin suggests low levels while a new perennial ryegrass field suggests high levels.

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Disease, Insect and Weed Problems

Choke – Will new varieties help? The fungus disease in orchardgrass called Choke was first found in the Willamette Valley in 1996. Research to find a cure has been frustrating. Many growers may not be aware of some of the current efforts to evaluate new varieties. Pat Boren, agronomist with Crop Production Services, has been closely involved and provided this update:

- Choke is an endophyte that prevents the seed head from emerging from the boot. The impact on seed yields can be devastating. There is a concern that this disease could adapt itself to other grasses and became a problem in tall fescue and ryegrass.
- There has been extensive research to understand and solve the Choke problem. Research has included a large spectrum of areas such as fungicides, nutrition, insect interactions and clipping. The results have not been encouraging.
- One school of thought that has developed over the years is that varietal resistance may be the answer to reducing Choke. In an ideal world there would be a quick and easy lab test to determine if a plant is resistant to Choke. Since there isn't such a test we decided to plant a variety trial in the spring of 2008 with 21 different varieties. Three additional variety trials have been established as more genetic material has become available from USDA and seed companies. There is very little money available for this project so it has been a combination of efforts by growers, private companies, OSU and USDA to make it happen.
- The original trial planted in 2008 has shown high levels of Choke in 2011 and 2012. There is a trend that several varieties have less Choke and some varieties have more



Pat Boren showing genetic variation in new orchardgrass varieties that are being screened for choke resistance.

over the last two years. This is encouraging but is not for certain at this time. The varieties planted in the later trials have a tremendous variation in genetic and physical characteristics so we are hopeful that there is a high potential for success.

- Cooperators in the variety trial work include Sujaya Rao and George Hoffman, OSU; Shaun Bushman and group USDA, Logan; Steve Alderman, USDA Corvallis; Devesh Singh and group, Barenbrug; Crop Production Services; and farm cooperators Smith Bros Farms and Rohner Farms, Linn County.

– Pat Boren

Aphids and BYDV

Several species of aphids are found in grass seed fields. Some carry the BYD virus. Research by OSU Extension specialists and industry agronomist has shown foliar insecticide sprays at the very beginning of peak aphid flights in the spring and fall have been effective at reducing aphid numbers on new plantings of perennial ryegrass. (<http://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/node/6102/print>)

While aphid populations were high in some wheat fields this spring, *most* grass seed fields had very low levels of *winged migratory aphids* through mid-June. Check with your field rep to find out if peak flights are underway in your region.

Registered products like Baythroid are effective, plus have a short PHI which allows spraying close to swathing.

It should be noted that the effect on seed yields is not clear cut and will vary with aphid levels and varieties. Weather conditions and predator levels in some years may be adequate to keep aphids in check. The limited studies to date though do suggest BYDV infections can be reduced in the early life of a stand thereby increasing yields in subsequent years, at least in perennial ryegrass. Further research is underway to document the impact on seed yields.

Harvest

Seed Moisture and Cutting Time

Determining seed moisture as harvest draws near is a useful guide to help seed producers decide when to cut. Take a sample three to five days before cutting and use moisture loss rates to determine how many days out the crop is from swathing.

Tom Silberstein, Marion County Extension field crops agent, did a lot of work in recent years to help update the recommendations for optimum cutting moisture contents for seed crops in Western Oregon. Tom summarized the work in some detail in the OSU Extension publication “Using Seed Moisture as a Harvest Management Tool” - EM 9012. (<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/19827/em9012.pdf>)

OSU Seed Lab Informational Updates

The OSU Seed Lab has put together two updates on seed testing which should be of interest for seed producers and warehouse operators. One publication is on “frequently asked questions about annual ryegrass testing” and the other is the “June OSU Seed Lab Update.” The June update includes rule changes, a discussion of the approach to purity testing the lab is using called *floret threshing* and important reminders.

The two updates are on the OSU Seed Lab webpage and below are the links. Adriel Garay, manager of the lab, encourages people to call with questions (541-737-4464).

http://seedlab.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/pubs/arg_faq_2-10-12.pdf

http://seedlab.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/pubs/june_2012_update_final.pdf



Tom Silberstein, taking a seed sample to determine moisture content.

Seed Moisture guidelines for Estimating Swathing Time in Willamette Valley Seed Crops.

Crop	Recommended seed moisture	Moisture loss per day
Tall fescue (forage)	40-43	2.5-3
Tall fescue (turf-type)	35-45	2.5-3
Perennial ryegrass	35-43	3.0
Annual ryegrass	43-48	2.0-3.0
Chewings fescue	30	5.0
Creeping red fescue	25-35	4.0
Orchard grass	42-46	1.0
Kentucky bluegrass	24-28	3.0-4.0
Crimson clover	35	3.0
Meadowfoam	42	2.0

CROP REMINDERS

- Don't forget to turn in seedling applications for spring plantings, over-seedings and modification of land history to maintain eligibility for seed certification.
- Check with your field rep about aphid numbers on new plantings of perennial ryegrass and consider a spray to help reduce the introduction of BYDV into the field.
- Scout spring wheat fields for late outbreaks of rust and CLB.
- Complete rust control sprays on perennial grass seed crops. Check labels for PHI and feeding restrictions.
- Sweep white clover fields for the clover seed weevil and spray infested fields as the first blooms turn brown.
- Continue to monitor susceptible varieties of Kentucky bluegrass for ergot.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 10-11, 2012 – Oregon Seed Growers League annual conference.

JANUARY 16, 2013 – Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association annual grower meeting.

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PAST NEWSLETTERS:
[May 2012 - 1st Issue](#)

Label updates

Voles and ZP Baits

There are ten Zinc Phosphide or ZP labels for use in Oregon (see May issue for a complete list). There are no labels which allow year-round above ground use. As a reminder, here again are the current labels which allow **above ground use** this summer during a limited period of time - May 8 to August 31, 2012 (check straw harvest and feeding restrictions).

HACCO/Prozap® Zinc Phosphide Pellets, EPA Reg. No. 61282-49, SLN No. OR-050009

HACCO/Prozap® Zinc Phosphide Oat Bait, EPA Reg. No. 61282-14, SLN No. OR-990009

Bell/ZP Rodent Bait AG, EPA Reg. No. 12455-17, EPA SLN No. OR-990034

Motomco/ZP AG Pellets, EPA Reg. No. 12455-17-3240, EPA SLN No. OR-990034

Products for Weed Control in Spring Tall Fescue Plantings

The ability to control problem weeds in spring planted tall fescue has greatly improved in recent years with the registration of several new products. The Oregon Seed Council has supported this work. Here is a short report from Dan Curtis, OSU weed science program, on the status of the major spring herbicide options and how the products look this season in the OSU plots.

- **Callisto** received a registration several years ago. **Huskie** just received a registration this past fall.
- A new product, Express in combination with Goal and Sharpen, is just beginning the registration process.
- OSU field trials included all of these products. In addition Callisto, Huskie and Sharpen were applied by themselves or in combinations with Latigo or other broadleaf herbicides. Treatments were applied at the one-tiller growth stage of the tall fescue.
- The photo that accompanies this article shows how effective these product tank mixes can be on a broad spectrum of weeds, including sharpshooter fluvelum, on spring seeded tall fescue.

Stinger for Radish. The ODA was successful in getting a 24(c) registration approved in early June for radish grown for seed. Stinger is effective on composites, legumes and knotweeds, and has good crop safety in radish (SLN OR-120010).

Palisade on Oats. A 24(c) registration was approved for Palisade 2EC on oats in Western Oregon this spring. The Oregon Department of Ag was able to respond to this request from growers in a timely fashion (i.e. push it through the system) thanks to the efforts of Rose Kachadoorian in the

Pesticide Division of ODA. Support was also obtained from the OSU Extension cereal specialist Mike Flowers, and Syngenta. Palisade is a good option for oat growers, especially during a cool wet spring that can lead to pretty rank growth in a crop that is already more prone to lodging than wheat (SLN OR-120009).

Acramite for clover. A 24(c) was approved in June for Acramite 4SC for spider mite control in clover grown for seed. (SLN OR-120007)



Dan Curtis, OSU weeds program, and Barry Duerk, Bayer Crop Science, viewing currently registered options for weed control in spring seeded tall fescue. Funding for the project was provided by the Oregon Seed Council.

The e-newsletter

The goal of this e-newsletter is to provide timely updates to Oregon seed producers and field reps on agronomic and pest issues. It includes regional reports from field reps, consultants, growers and OSU research and Extension staff.

By the way, we encourage both growers and field reps to contribute to the regional reports or provide short articles such as ones you'll find in this edition. Digital photos are welcome. We are open to suggestions and story ideas.

The next issue will be in the fall. Until then, have a safe and profitable harvest!

– Mark Mellbye, agronomist and eUPDATE coordinator
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