



Regional Reports

WILLAMETTE VALLEY. Following a very wet spring in the Willamette Valley, it was dry for nearly 100 days. The summer and fall “drought” didn’t last though, and 2012 ended up actually being the fourth wettest on record in the Valley.

Low humidity in the fall limited the effectiveness of early slug baiting. Damage has been severe. A number of fields, especially those planted late, will need to be re-seeded. Once again, growers and field reps struggled with a baiting program that was expensive and not always very effective because problem fields could not be treated for slugs before steady rains began.

Some carbon band planting where both diuron and pronamide (Kerb) were used still look weak. However, growers and field reps experienced with this approach have gotten acceptable stands where slugs are not aggravating the problem. In general, good safety was seen on well-prepared seedbeds with good carbon bands, and where heavy rains did not dissipate the carbon bands too quickly.

In the South Valley, farmers are struggling with a growing roughstalk bluegrass problem and field reps from several different companies are working hard on control options and alternatives to Rely. Ryegrass is a problem in wheat in some areas of the Valley, and in new perennial and tall fescue plantings as well. Lack of field burning and poor conditions for a fall sprout spray have contributed to these problems.

– Nicole Anderson

HERMISTON AND COLUMBIA BASIN. Dealing with seed borne diseases is an issue in the Columbia Basin. This past season, ergot was present in perennial ryegrass. Spore traps detected high levels of airborne ascospores in late May. Consequently, ergot was observed in many perennial ryegrass fields this season. Although powdery mildew was heavy early in the season, final levels were near normal as mildew severity decreased with warming temperatures. A low incidence of stripe rust was observed in KBG, while some PRG fields experienced stem rust problems throughout the season.

– Phil Hamm

January Meetings

Several meetings take place in January of importance to growers and field reps in the seed industry in Oregon. These include the annual OSU winter wheat meetings (which include grass seed topics this year), the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association meeting the 3rd Wednesday in January and the annual Clover Growers Meeting on January 28. For details on these programs, follow the links provided in the calendar section on page 3.

CROP REMINDERS

- Don’t forget to turn in seedling applications for fall plantings and over-seedings to maintain eligibility for seed certification.
- If you are growing winter wheat, consider taking an Nmin soil test in late January to help pin down spring N rates and avoid lodging problems from applying too much fertilizer.
- Some of the commonly used herbicides for grass control in winter wheat (Osprey, Axial XL, and PowerFlex) work best on small weeds but also perform better under good growing conditions. Delay spraying when night-time temperatures are below freezing.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Regional Reports 1
- January Meetings 1
- Crop Reminders 1
- Disease, Insect and Weed Problems 2
- Aphid Flights in 2012 2
- Label and Industry Updates 2
- The eNewsletter 3
- Acknowledgements 3
- Calendar 3

Disease, Insect and Weed Problems

Slugs. In OSU field tests, timing has often been just as important as product choice when it comes to controlling slugs with available baits. In a long-term annual ryegrass field trial at Hyslop Farm, 100% of the stand in the no-till plots was lost to slugs this fall, but even tilled plots were heavily damaged despite an aggressive bait program. Glenn Fisher will provide an update on the slug and bait situation during the OSU Winter Wheat and Grass Seed meetings January 8 and 9 (see calendar section).

Winter grain mite. The winter grain mite can be a serious problem east of the Cascades. Mites were found this fall in the Valley as well. OSU insect specialists do not feel the winter grain mite is much of a problem in the Willamette Valley. Nevertheless, this is something to be aware of on fields that appear under stress. The winter grain mite and other grass seed insect pests are described in PNW insect control handbook,



The winter grain mite

which includes photos and control recommendations. (<http://uspest.org/pnw/insects?10LEGU07.dat>).

Aphid Flights in 2012

Aphid flights were later this fall and the numbers were lower than in peak years, according to OSU Extension specialists Glenn Fisher. Why? Insect populations normally change from year to year. Dr. Fisher reported seeing increased parasite activity on aphids this fall, which probably contributed to the lower population, along with the dry fall. Infection with BYD virus is more likely to be a problem when aphid flights into grass seed or wheat fields are earlier and heavier. Thus it may not pay to spray on a routine basis. Check with your field rep in the spring and fall to find out if peak flights are under way. Registered products like Baythroid are effective. (<http://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/node/6102/print>).



OSU entomologist Glenn Fisher spraying field plots in Linn County on November 14 to control and repel aphids and reduce BYD virus infection.

Label and Industry Updates

Following Seed League in December, Roger Beyer from the Oregon Seed Council has gotten a number of requests for the changes in trucking requirements that were discussed. Here's a link to that information - the "Guide to Farm Trucking in Oregon".

<http://www.odot.state.or.us/forms/motcarr/reg/9942.pdf>



CALENDAR

2012

- January 8** South Valley 2013 Winter OSU Extension - Wheat and Seed Production Meetings.
Linn County Fair and Expo, Albany 8:00 am – Noon
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/sites/default/files/2013_winter_osu_extension_wheat-seed_meeting_flyer_-_southvalley.pdf
- January 9** North Valley 2013 Winter OSU Extension - Wheat and Seed Production Meetings.
Program offered at two times and places during the day:
Forest Grove Elks Lodge 8:30 am – Noon.
Roth's Hospitality Center, West Salem, 1:30 – 5 pm.
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/sites/default/files/2013_winter_osu_extension_wheat-seed_meeting_flyer_-_northvalley.pdf
- January 16** Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association.
Linn County Fair and Expo, Albany
[Program and Registration Form pdf](#)
- January 22** Oregon Seed Council Meeting, Cascade Grill, Albany, 6:30 pm
- January 28** Oregon Clover Growers Annual Meeting.
Yamhill County Fairgrounds, Leslie Lewis Building.
McMinnville. 9 am – 12 noon (coffee at 8:30 am).
- February 26** Oregon Seed Council Meeting, Cascade Grill, Albany, 6:30 pm

The e-newsletter

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide timely updates to Oregon seed producers and field reps on agronomic and pest issues and notices about industry events. Both growers and field reps contribute to this e-newsletter, which is one of the things that distinguish it from the Oregon Seed Magazine. It includes reports from the OSC pesticide project, ODA and OSU research and Extension staff. You can send in observations, digital photos of interest or suggestions anytime.

– Mark Mellbye, agronomist and eUPDATE coordinator
Oregonseedupdate@gmail.com

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to the field reps and OSU research and Extension staff who provided information and reports for this edition: Nicole Anderson, Glenn Fisher, and Phil Hamm, OSU Extension Service; and agronomists from local fertilizer and chemical companies.

CONNECT WITH US

To sign-up for this e-newsletter or for archived issues, please visit:
<http://www.oregonseedcouncil.org/seed-update>

PAST NEWSLETTERS:

[May 2012 - 1st Issue](#)
[June 2012 - 2nd Issue](#)

[October 2012 - 3rd Issue](#)

