



Stripe Rust in the winter wheat crop.

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The winter wheat crop is looking stellar across our trading territory. Yield potential is setting up to be a bin buster. With strong futures price, wheat is not going to be called poverty grass this season. However, in order to help guarantee we produce profit grass this season wheat needs to stay clean of yield robbing leaf diseases. One of the scary diseases in winter wheat is stripe rust.

Stripe rust, also known as yellow rust, is a leaf disease affecting winter wheat. When a wheat plant is infected by stripe rust, yellowish/orange pustules will form on the leaf surface; hence, the yellow rust. The disease can quickly spread across individual wheat plants and eventually the entire field.



The flag leaf in this field is almost completely covered in rust, resulting in a significant yield impact

One positive note, stripe rust does not over winter in Ontario. It needs to be moved into the province on wind currents from our neighbours to the south. Stripe rust is a very aggressive leaf disease. Some of the recent races will grow and thrive even in hot and dry conditions. Within days or weeks of infection, Stripe Rust can significantly steal yield potential from the wheat crop.



Early infection in late May 2016. Still opportunity to control without yield impact.

Be on the lookout for stripe rust this year in the winter wheat crop. The wheat growing regions in the Southern Midwest US are already starting to see Stripe Rust. We know from experience this leaf disease can move fast northwards and will likely be on our doorstep before we know it.

Stripe Rust took the province by storm back in 2016. By the end of May, we were starting to see it widespread across Lambton county in multiple wheat fields. At the time it was a relatively unknown wheat leaf disease. Most Ontario wheat growers had never seen it in their fields. We quickly recognized wheat varieties having various levels of genetic resistance to Stripe Rust infection. Some susceptible fields had most of their green leaf material rusted over within a few weeks. With the high inoculum load in 2016 even fields with highly resistant varieties were turning yellowish/orange fast.



Its not a good feeling when your shoes are rusty after scouting winter wheat.

Great control of Stripe Rust is somewhat easy and economically affordable to achieve. Most of our wheat fungicides on the market have excellent control of Stripe Rust. These can be tank mixed and applied with a herbicide product (T1- T1.5 timing) or applied later in season near the flag leaf timing (T2) with a foliar fertilizer product. Depending on when the Stripe Rust comes into the province, it might be a year to pull the trigger on a leaf protecting fungicide.



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