

Monday 10 August

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Stripe rust sited in the Mallee**

Stripe rust continues to be a major concern for farmers in the Wimmera Mallee. It has been reported this year in the northern Mallee in a CFL STL crop at GS 33. While the report is isolated, more sightings are expected as the season progresses especially if conditions are conducive (moist and cool). It is important for farmers to be prepared. The following strategy may help farmers develop the most cost effective fungicide strategy for their situation.

Check the resistance rating of varieties. See Table 1. This will give you a good idea of how vulnerable your crops are to stripe rust. Susceptible varieties will require close attention.

Variety	Stripe Rust Resistance (WA + YR17 strain)
Annuello	MS – S
Axe	MR
Carinya	MR – MS* <sub>vpm</sub>
Catalina	MR – MS
Clearfield JNZ	MS
Clearfield Stilleto	S
Correll	MR
Derrimut	MS
Frame	MR – MS
Guardian	MS
Mitre	MS – S
Peake	MR – MS*
Rosella	MR-MS
Wyalkatchem	MS – S
Yitpi	MR – MS
Young	MS vpm

Source: DPI Vic

R = Resistant

MR = Moderately resistant

MS = Moderately susceptible

S = Susceptible

VS = Very susceptible

\* These ratings are less reliable and should be treated with caution

vpm These varieties have the stripe rust resistance gene *Yr17*. This means these will be more susceptible to the new strain of stripe rust, but will be more resistant to the older WA strain.

Start monitoring your crop regularly for bright yellow spots on the leaves and look for hot spots in paddocks. If you have a susceptible variety it is particularly important to closely monitor, especially if a preventative fungicide was not applied at sowing.

Determine the potential yield loss of your crop at different growth stages. See Table 2. Know which stage your variety is most at risk to stripe rust. This will ensure that you make the most economical decision and get the best hit.

**Table 2. Expected yield losses (%) based on different growth stages of disease onset (stripe rust).**

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Disease onset		Stripe rust reaction			
Growth Stage		Susceptible	Moderately Susceptible	Moderately Resistant	Resistant
GS31	First node	85	75	---	---
GS39	Flag leaf	75	45	15	5
GS45	Booting	65	25	7	2
GS49	1 <sup>st</sup> awns	50	10	3	1
GS55	Mid Heading	40	5	2	0
GS65	Mid Flower	12	2	1	0

Source: Cereal Foliar Disease Workshop for Advisors (Murray, 2004)

Remember response to fungicide is highly unlikely if applied before GS 32, particularly in the more resistant varieties. Lower rates of longer lasting fungicides may be better than short lived products if cutting costs.