

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
University of California – Yolo, Solano & Sacramento Counties

South Sacramento Valley Field Crops Report



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Wheat Meetings Near You

May 4, 2004 - Tuesday

UC Davis Annual Alfalfa and Small Grains Field Day

All day meeting to see the latest Alfalfa, Wheat, Barley and other grains and forages. Free BBQ lunch with all the Breeders, Specialists, Farm Advisors, friends and neighbors. Meet at 8AM at the Agronomy Field Headquarters, UCD, west of HWY 113 on Hutchison Road in Davis, CA.

Wheat Field Meetings in Yolo, Solano and Sacramento Counties

I'm holding Wheat Field Meetings at the Variety Trials this year. Come to the trial closest to you to see what's new and how the varieties survived this year's strains of stripe rust. I plan to spend about 2 hours out at each trial location to talk about each of the varieties growing habits and any pest problems in evidence. Also, I'm hoping you will come with any questions you may have. I grow these trials around the three counties with the idea you will check in on them occasionally to form your own opinions as to which variety would be good for you. Come and see a new awnless wheat that I hope will replace Derkwin. I recommend that if you can only come to one, come to the Dixon trial to see the heaviest stripe rust and aphid pressures. See what stripe rust looks like in Summit, this is one of only a couple places it could be found in Summit this season. Also come and check out the Fungicide timing trials. I'll put out signs so you can't miss it.

DAY 1

May 6, 2004 - Thursday

Time: **9AM to Noon**

Location: **Dixon, CA** – Southeast corner of Pedric and Weber Road, Roy Gills Farm.

Parking: North side of Weber at the old sugarbeet loading station.

Time: **2PM to 4PM**

Location: **South of Knights Landing, CA** – South side of County Road 13 (HWY 113) one-half mile west of County Road 102, Dan Best Ranch.

Parking: Among the black walnut trees on both sides of Co. Rd. 13, please be very careful crossing the road.

Wheat Field Meetings in Yolo, Solano and Sacramento Counties – Day 2 & 3.

DAY 2

May 7, 2004 - Friday

Time: **9AM to Noon**

Location: **South of Esparto, CA** – North of the intersection of County Roads 88 and 26.

Parking: Along the north side road among the trees.

Time: **2PM to 4PM**

Location: **Southwest of Clarksburg, CA** – At the intersection of N. Courtland Rd. and Widgeon Ave.

Take Jefferson Blvd. south almost to the end, turn west on N. Courtland Rd.

Parking: Along the edge of Widgeon. Watch out for the bees.

DAY 3

May 11, 2004 – Tuesday

Time: **9AM to Noon**

Location: **South of Walnut Grove, CA Tyler Island** – Take Race Track Rd. to Tyler Island Rd. turn left on Brunk Rd. drive slow through the farm yard and out to the end turn right and follow the signs.

You don't need to wait to see these trials, come on out at any time and take a look. See you there.

This Year's Stripe Rust Development

Anza is being totally defoliated by stripe rust (SR) at all 5 variety trial and fungicide trial locations. This season SR first appeared on Express in early March, then by mid-late March started in Anza. Early April the disease took off in Anza, but not in Express as the adult resistance kicked in and slowed its progress. Standard is slightly more susceptible than Express but better than Anza and aphids love this variety. The new awnless wheat variety CEB1404 from Adams Grain (WPB) is showing very good tolerance, I have high hopes that this might replace Derkwin. Also, the aphids don't like the leaves of this variety much.

I have confirmed stripe rust in Summit at my variety trial east of Dixon, in two commercial fields south of Esparto and on Sutter Island near Walnut Grove. I have not heard of any other Summit field affected anywhere else. SR first showed up in Summit in Dixon during the first week of March in one patch and only in one plot and has slowly spread from there. It has not spread heavily into the other reps of Summit at this trial or into the commercial field around this trial, though occasional striping is occurring. This strain of SR in Summit appears to spread out from patches in all the locations I have found it. This may be a function of the season (weather) and the low spore load of this particular strain or a true growth characteristic.

I have three fungicide timing trials with Anza, Express and Summit with mixed visual results depending on disease pressure. We shall see what effects on yield and quality occur after I harvest.

Aphid Numbers High in Wheat

I have seen some fairly high aphid numbers in the wheat this season and a great deal of honey-dew coated leaves. In addition, there are more barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) symptoms appearing this year. BYDV symptoms include uneven, blotchy leaf discoloration in various shades of yellow, red, or purple, progressing from leaf tip to base and margin to midrib. The most striking symptoms occur on older leaves; the youngest leaves usually are not affected. Wheat and barley leaves usually turn yellow.

Stunting also occurs, especially if plants are infected at an early growth stage. Tillering is reduced and maturity is delayed. Severe early infections can kill young plants.

Bird Cherry-Oat aphid is the most common aphid in Yolo, Solano and Sacramento counties, though I have had a call about some heavy Greenbug pressure down in the Delta. Economic thresholds for bird cherry-oat aphid are not well established. Do not consider treatment until the number of aphids exceeds 50-60 per tiller. Chemical controls should then be applied only if there is no evidence of natural enemy activity or if the plants are several weeks from flowering. By the time you are reading this, it will be too late for all, but the January planted fields, to take any action. Bird cherry-oat and most other aphid populations are usually kept under control by a combination of predators and parasites. Late this week I noticed that the higher temperatures, winds and a very rapid increase in beneficials are starting to slow things down. In talking to Lee Jackson, Small Grains Specialist, he and I both feel that there will be a few fields that lose some yield to the aphids.

2004 Corn Research

Variety Trials

In 2004 I am evaluating 30 new grain corn varieties from 11 corn seed companies in three different large field strip trials. This last week I planted all my trials within a 8 day period. Late seed arrivals and dry soil conditions had Mark Kochi, Yolo County Field Assistant, and I husseling to keep up with my grower cooperators. By April 9th most of the corn acreages north of the Delta were planted, I have never seen so many tired and harassed seedsmen. Here are the trial locations:

1. No-till Roundup Ready variety trial – Eric Freese, cooperator, Dixon, CA.
Planting Date: April 8, 2004. Planter: Case IH 1200 modified no-till cup planter
Location: East of Pitt School. X Weber Roads
Previous Crop: Corn – very heavy fusarium ear rot and corn ear worm 2003.
2. Delta variety trial – Steve Mello cooperator, Tyler Island, CA.
Planting Date: April 9, 2004. Planter: White air planter
Location: Just south of the duck pens off Brunk road.
Previous Crop: Wheat.
3. UC Davis Russell Ranch LTRAS variety trial – Dennis Bryant and Israel Herrera, cooperators.
Planting Date: April 15, 2004. Planter: John Deere 71 plate planter
Location: South of Russell Road ¼ mile west of County Road 95, just south of LTRAS shop.
Previous Crop: Tomatoes.

Fusarium Ear Rot Screening

This season I am evaluating 44 experimental corn varieties for 11 seed companies at 2 locations. These trials provide private screening of potential germplasm for our area. Locations are in the Delta on Tyler Island and on the UCD campus at the Plant Pathology field headquarters' Armstrong Tract.

Corn Seed Treatment Trial

Evaluation of the 2 different commercially available seed treatment rates of Poncho (Clothianidin): 250 - 25mg/kernel and 1250 - 12525mg/kernel, on three different varieties compared to 5 lbs Thimet 20G for wireworm control.

Post-emergence Johnsongrass and Broadleaf Herbicide Trial

Evaluation and EPA registration data generation trial for three post-emergence herbicides in corn.

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Submitted by,

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Farm Advisor, Yolo, Solano and Sacramento Counties

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