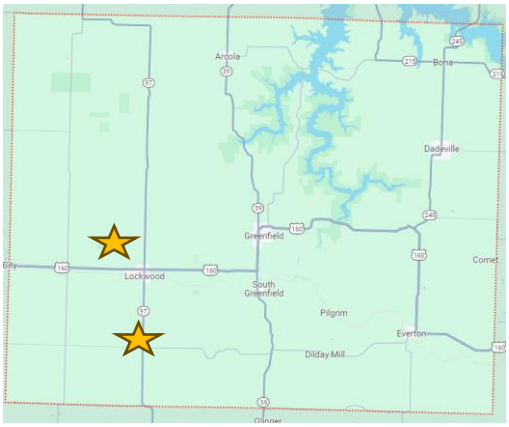
Crop Scouting Update: May 15, 2024

Weather Station Scouting was delayed until Wednesday, because of rain on Monday/Tuesday. According to the Lamar Weather Station, the temperature reached a low of 55.7ºF and a high of 73.8 ºF. Lamar received at total of 1.64 inches of rain between 5/6/24 and 5/14/24. Scattered Thunderstorms/rainfall are forecasted for Thursday and Friday and the coming Monday and Tuesday.



Wheat

Wheat fields for two farmers were checked near the Southwest corner of Dade County near Lockwood and one farmer's field in Barton County on the way back. Wheat was around 36 to 40 inches tall and early kernel development (milky stage). Fields that were sprayed with fungicide for Fusarium head blight, showed minimal noticeable disease presence, but in the field that was not sprayed, Fusarium head blight was much more noticeable. With all the rainfall in the past few weeks, fungicide treatment appears to have been an important investment this season. For any farmer who was not able to spray their fields with fungicide before the rain and suspect Fusarium head blight might be present, please contact me and I will gladly help scout for disease if there is a concern. On the way back to the office in Barton County, a field was noticed from the roadside indicating a different disease issue. Upon investigation, several circular areas of bleached straw colored/ prematurely dead wheat were noticed in standing water or excessively moist soil. Take-All disease is suspected. This disease is caused by the soil-borne fungus *Gaeumannomyces graminis var. tritici* which favors poor soil fertility, neutral to alkaline soils, poor soil drainage and temp. between 54-64ºF. The fungus can infect developing roots early, but disease symptoms can often go unnoticed till around the time of heading or later. See links for information.

Fusarium Head Blight in an unsprayed field

Suspected Take-All disease symptoms.

Corn

Corn fields of two farmers were scouted. Soil in scouted corn fields were very moist, but walkable for the most part, limited standing water. Corn is in V3 to V5 stage between 4 to 11 inches tall. Shorter plants located in low areas of the field. All fields indicated developing weed issues (grasses, nutsedge, water hemp, broadleaf plants, henbit, Shepards purse, others, even left over turnips and oats for one farmer) but appears the farmers have already sprayed herbicides to address these concerns. Corn plants showed some herbicide residual spotting, but this should not be an issue. Continue to keep a look out for any pale green or yellow plants or struggling plants who may show nitrogen stress in the future if our excessive rainfall/wet soils continue.

Fescue

Recently, a farmer reported to have 5-10 Armyworms larva/ sq ft in a fescue seed field near Arcola. Fescue seed farmers should consider scout their fields for Armyworms.
https://ipm.missouri.edu/croppest/2013/5/True-Armyworm-Larvae-Reported-in-Tall-Fescue-and-Wheat/

Scouting for Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) and Harvest Considerations

https://extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pub/pdf/agguides/crops/g04351.pdf

Distinguishing between Head Disorders of Wheat

https://extensionpubs.unl.edu/publication/ec1872/pdf/view/ec1872-2010.pdf

Take-All of Wheat https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-ag-sg-01.pdf

Take-All Root Rot https://www.plantpath.k-state.edu/extension/wheat-and-forages/documents/wheat-take-all-root-rot-ep1681.pdf

Micah Doubledee
Field Specialist in Agronomy
MU Extension in Barton County
801 East 12th Street Lamar, MO 64759
mdoubledee@missouri.edu 417-682-3579
Join Weekly Crop Scouting Program https://extension.missouri.edu/events/weekly-crop-scouting-update