7th October 2011

Crop Alert

Protecting your crops against disease

Net form of net blotch found in barley

A severe outbreak of the net form of net blotch (NFNB) was detected in a crop of barley growing in the Wimmera region of Victoria (Figure 1).

NFNB can cause grain yield losses as high as 70 percent, if infection goes untreated, in susceptible varieties. Growers need to be aware that there is a risk of infection from NFNB. They are advised to closely monitor crops with the view of applying a foliar fungicide if the disease is detected prior to ear emergence.

More than one application of a foliar fungicide may be required to manage NFNB and protect the upper leaves from infection, if the infection is detected before ear emergence.

It is suggested that growers monitor crops for the remainder of the season and apply foliar fungicides as needed. There are several registered products available. Contact local agronomists or resellers for further information on fungicide control.

Figure 1. Severe infection of the net form of net blotch in barley, September 2011

What to look for:

The net form of net blotch is different from the more common spot form of net blotch. Net form starts as pinpoint brown lesions, which elongate and produce fine, dark brown streaks along and across the leaf blades, creating a distinctive net-like pattern (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Net form of net blotch infection

Symptoms of the spot form of net blotch develop as small circular or elliptical dark brown spots becoming surrounded by a chlorotic zone of varying widths. The spots do not elongate into the net-like pattern

Figure 3. Spot form of net blotch infection

State Government Victoria Department of Primary Industries

GRDC Grains Research & Development Corporation

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This is the first significant recording of NFNB in Victoria for more than a decade, and highlights the risk associated with growing susceptible varieties. This situation also places other varieties with resistance under pressure as it increases inoculum, and therefore the opportunity for mutation and the emergence of new virulent pathotypes.

The majority of varieties grown in Victoria have adequate resistance to this disease (Table 1). Even though conditions in Victoria are conducive to this disease, the widespread use of varieties with either complete or partial resistance to this disease has kept it under control.

Be aware that going into next season NFNB can carry over on seed and stubble. It can therefore be an issue in most paddocks regardless of paddock history.

Table 1. The resistant ratings of commonly grown barley varieties to the net form of net blotch, 2011

Barley variety	Net form of net blotch
Barque	MS-S
Baudin	MS#
Buloke	MR
Capstan	MR-MS#
Commander	MR-MS#
Cowabbie	VS
Fairview	S-VS
Flagship	MR
Fleet	MR
Gairdner	MR-MS
Hindmarsh	MR-MS#
Keel	MR#
Maritime	VS
Oxford	MR-MS#
Schooner	MR-MS
Scope	MR
Sheppard	MR#
Yarra	MS#

Resistant to some strains of net form of net blotch, but not all strains.

Further advice

Consult your agronomist on the disease management strategies used for this disease. See DPI Fact Sheets www.dpi.vic.gov.au/graindiseases for more information.

Contact/Services available from DPI

DPI Field Crop Pathology, Grains Innovation Park,110 Natimuk Rd, Horsham 3400. Tel (03) 5362 2111, or the DPI Customer Service Centre 136 186.

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