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To: Oregon Wheat Growers and Industry Reps
From: Mike Flowers, Chris Mundt, and Christina Hagerty; OSU

RE: Disease Update

Eastern Oregon

Eastern Oregon has started its thaw from a cold and snowy winter. This is a good time to start checking fields. Winter wheat may be showing symptoms of winter injury and/or snow mold. Winter injury symptoms may be mild (yellow foliage) to severe (dead plants). Typical snow mold symptoms (white or pink mycelial growth) may also be present given the extended snow cover this winter. Many varieties grown in Oregon have low to moderate winterhardiness and very few (if any) have resistance to snow mold. There are no cures for either winter injury or snow mold. If either of these is suspected, growers are encouraged to dig up several plants and take them inside to a warm environment. If the plants start to regrow and recover, they are not dead and the field will likely recover with warmer temperatures (snow mold does not always kill impacted plants). If severe injury or death occurs growers may take out the field and replant to spring wheat or another spring crop or sweeten fields by planting spring wheat in impacted areas.

Stripe rust was detected in eastern Oregon last fall and given the snow cover it is likely that it survived the winter. Growers are encouraged to scout their fields and tank mix a fungicide with their spring herbicide if stripe rust is present in their field and/or they are growing a highly susceptible variety (Mary, SY Ovation, ORCF-102 are examples). In addition, stripe rust was found on two varieties (Norwest Duet and Skiles) that have typically shown excellent stripe rust resistance. We expect these varieties to recover as their High Temperature Adult Plant (HTAP) resistance increases with warmer temperatures.

Early symptoms of soil-borne wheat mosaic virus (SBWMV) have been found near the Walla Walla Valley. SBWMV infected plants display a general chlorotic mosaic and irregular mottling on leaf tissue. Contact Christina Hagerty if you suspect SBWMV; samples can be routed to a plant clinic for analysis. There is no cure for SBWMV, but identification can help inform resistant variety selection for fields identified with SBWMV.

Growers should also be aware that conditions are favorable for several other wheat diseases. These include strawbreaker foot rot, Cephalosporium stripe, and barley yellow dwarf virus. Growers should be on the lookout for symptoms of these diseases as they scout their fields. A fungicide applied with spring herbicide will provide some control of strawbreaker foot rot. There are no within-season controls available for the other two diseases.

Western Oregon:

Cool temperatures and rain continue to delay the wheat crop. However, growers should scout their fields as temperatures warm and spring growth starts. Growers should be prepared to treat

fields for stripe rust as necessary. Tank mixing a fungicide with your spring herbicide application is a very effective way to control early season stripe rust.

Septoria may have also been influenced by delayed wheat plantings. Most wheat was planted after the fall rains and may have avoided much of the fall Septoria infection. Spring Septoria infections are expected. Growers should scout their fields and be prepared to treat for Septoria. The most effective Septoria control is a fungicide application at flag leaf emergence. Earlier fungicide applications are not recommended for Septoria control.