



Plant Disease in Kansas

Pine wilt disease down in central and western Kansas

Special points of interest:

- *Pine wilt disease down*
- *Wheat disease in the fall planted crop*
- *Update on 1000 cankers of walnut*

Is there an upside to pine wilt from recent drought conditions in Kansas? *Perhaps* would be an appropriate answer. Certainly when we look at some observations comparing 2011 to 2012, there is a marked difference in the positives that have been analyzed. In 2011 from July 1 to November 21, there were 24 positive locations in and west of the border counties where pine wilt is well established (Mitchell in the north to Ellis/Barton in central Kansas to Ford/Hodgeman in the south). In the same period of 2012, there have been 7 records total (Ellis, Mitchell, and Barton). Tim Todd, KSU nematologist, reported that the number of positive samples from central and western counties is way down also in samples analyzed at his laboratory.

We might be prone to explain it all on drought. More than

likely it is a combination of several factors but drought has to be considered as an important possibility to reduced spread or incidence of the disease. My personal observations in some eastern Kansas counties are also that the disease is present and had new infection this fall but numbers seem to be down.

Some other factors that need to be considered are eradication and educational efforts over the past two years in outlying disease populations. Removals of positive pines in Thomas (NW), Finney (SW), Meade (SW), Stevens (SW), Haskell (SW), Rooks (NC), Mitchell (NC), Hodgeman (SC) and Ford (SW) have contributed to keeping disease numbers down and controllable by removing brood trees of the vector insect, pine sawyer. Another factor to be considered is that drought over the past two years has killed off

some infested trees where pine wilt was present and it was not tested and then reported. The landowner may simply removed the trees believing it was drought as opposed to years of normal rainfall where these trees would be suspect of pine wilt. The drought may have masked pine wilt symptoms when indeed they were out there.

I think there is a some direct cause and effect but without real hard scientific study I am cautious in making the generalization. For whatever reason or combination of reasons, pine wilt observations appear to be down statewide and particularly in central and western Kansas. It is a great time to stay vigilant and get those dead pine trees removed with the hope of keeping ahead of this important disease of a very much valuable tree group.

Wheat disease slow to start in the fall planted crop

Over the past month, wheat fields in central and western Kansas counties have been visited. Wheat streak mosaic was reported in less than 5 per cent of the fields. This percentage might sound of importance but these reports were only of a few plants if that in these locations. Counties visited included Pratt, Stafford, Saline,

Ness, Lane, Rooks, Ellis, Phillips, Rush, Ford, Finney, and Hodgeman.

Some recent rains in late October and early November have greatly helped the crop in many of these same counties. Far western counties still are in need of significant rains to keep wheat growing and well rooted

to avoid winter injury.

PLANT PROTECTION AND WEED CONTROL
PROGRAM

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INVASIVE SPECIES

Plant Protection and Weed Control Program

Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

Our Mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantine pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

The Plant Disease Survey in Kansas has been conducted since 1976. The survey addresses disease situations in field crops, native ecosystems, and horticultural trade. The Kansas Department of Agriculture works cooperatively with Kansas State University and Extension programs, United States Department of Agriculture, and various commodity groups.

1000 cankers of walnut survey

Walnut 1000 cankers disease survey results were again negative. The disease which now has been surveyed for four years in Kansas has never been found. Central Kansas counties received the majority of 2012 survey as opposed to eastern Kansas in 2011.

In addition, 2012 was the first year that pheromone traps were set for the walnut twig beetle. The majority of those traps were set in urban and eastern Kansas walnut stands. Sites targeted were sawmills, truck parking areas, campgrounds, stands in decline, and tree disposal sites. Results are still

pending but in samples that have been examined, no walnut twig beetles have been found.

Last week the Tennessee Department of Agriculture hosted their second annual conference on the disease. Some topics that were presented included an update on the National Response Framework, Walnut Twig Beetle Biological Control, Wood Treatments for Exported Commodities, Tree Injections, and various Updates from Midwest and Eastern States. It is the intention of the meeting hosts that a synopsis of the presented material will be posted at the website [http://](http://www.protecttforests.org/)

www.protecttforests.org/

I would suggest bookmarking this website and referring to the site here in a few weeks as information may become available.