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Plant Disease in Kansas

Special points of interest:

- *Goss's wilt of corn*
- *Rose Rosette*
- *Blackberry Anthracnose*

Harvest is approaching

The summer row crops of sorghum, corn, and soybean are nearing harvest or being harvested across the state. Here are a few notes on diseases of importance to the crops.

Corn - Planting was late in many areas of Kansas with a cool spring. The crop experienced heat stress in June and then in August. Goss's wilt was an issue in many regions of Kansas (D. Jardine KSU). Other diseases noted included common maize rust, southern rust, gray leaf spot, and common smut.

Soybeans - Sudden death syndrome was noted to be severe in some areas of the Kansas River Valley (D Jardine, J Appel). Bacterial blight , brown spot, and downy mildew were also noted in this region. Target Leaf spot was reported for the first time in the state as Rossville Experiment Station (D Jardine). Charcoal rot was observed in areas of western and central Kansas production and sometimes exceeded 20%. Frogeye leaf spot has been hard to find in some areas of eastern Kansas where it was expected to be.

Sorghum - Diseases in production fields have been low . In seed fields sooty stripe, rough leaf spot, and viruses have been noted. Recent hot weather has allowed this crop to mature.

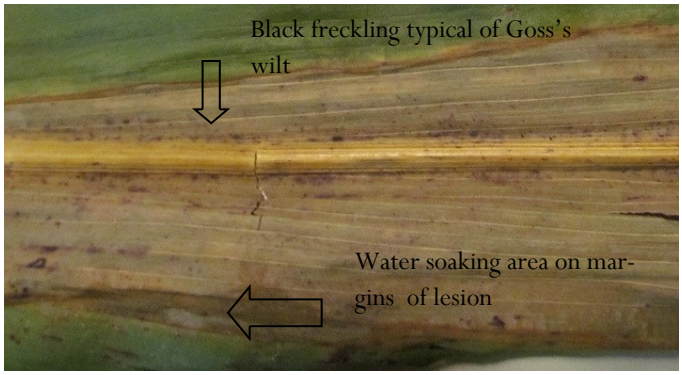

Figure 1. Goss's wilt of corn J Appel

Update on tree diseases

In the landscape, rust diseases of apples, crabapples, and hawthorn have led to some defoliation of trees. Pine wilt is apparent now as Scotch and Austrian pines are beginning to die rapidly when infected and faced with drought stress.

In shade trees, Dutch Elm was a problem to American elms but now Chinese elms seem to have some flagging caused by DED. Ash is getting hammered from various late season leaf spots and trees in some areas of eastern Kansas are almost defoliated. Oaks have branch flagging from Bot canker and may have other issues like Kermes scale.

Cotoneaster, pear, and apple experienced an epidemic in June but most of that damage is now forgotten. Cooler and wet conditions were ideal for fire blight this year.

In woodlands and urban plantings, walnuts appear healthy with some drought stress. Surveys in eastern Kansas have not found any thousand cankers.

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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.

Rose Rosette still a problem and blackberry trouble

Figure 2 Rose Rosette at Legends Mall in KC

Occasional calls or observations that Rose Rosette continues to infect rose plantings in the eastern half of Kansas. This disease is moved from plant to plant by small microscopic mites. The only remedy is sanitation and removing plants as soon as infection is noted. Look for a witches broom of branches.

Growing blackberries or raspberries and nothing grew? The problem could be anthracnose. Weather conditions proved ideal in some areas. Recently a grower anear Hiawatha asked Tom Sanders, area specialist ,what was going on with his crop which was great last year but yielded nothing this year. Tom brought in leaves and canes showing typical anthracnose issues. Flowers were 100% blighted with small black fruiting bodies.

He also noted some borers.

Fig. 3. Anthracnose Blackberry . J. Appel