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INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 92-25] [November 6, 1992]

Alex Martin

University of Nebraska - Lincoln, amartin2@unl.edu

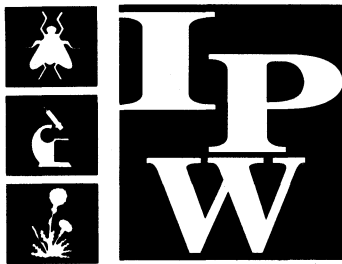
Lisa Brown Jasa

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, ljasa@unlnotes.unl.edu

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Plant Disease

Yield loss could be significant

Wheat streak mosaic found in western Nebraska

Wheat streak mosaic was detected in fields in the southern Nebraska Panhandle in late September. Laboratory examination confirmed the presence of the wheat streak mosaic virus in both fall planted wheat and in secondary volunteer wheat. Since early October, more than a dozen samples of fall planted wheat have been confirmed as having wheat streak mosaic. Similar reports are being received from northeast Colorado.

This particular disease outbreak is unusual because: 1) rarely

do symptoms occur in the fall on the new wheat crop; and 2) the fields are uniformly infected indicating that the infection is not just moving in from the field margins. Surveys in August and September revealed an abundance of weeds in stubble fields. In many of these fields, tillage resulted in only marginal weed control and produced a secondary volunteer wheat crop. It is highly possible that the grassy weeds and secondary volunteer wheat provided the needed green bridge for the wheat

curl mite to live on between summer harvest and fall planting.

Fields showing symptoms of wheat streak mosaic are likely to suffer significant yield loss. In considering options, farmers should talk with their local crop insurance or ASCS official. When considering crop alternatives, spring wheat or late seeded winter wheat are not good options, and oats are questionable. Probably the best alternatives are proso millet or sunflowers.

John E. Watkins
Extension Plant Pathologist

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IPW News to get new name and expanded crop focus in 1993

Crop Watch will be the new name for this newsletter in 1993. Of course, it will continue to carry the same indepth and timely coverage of insect, plant disease and weed problems, including scouting and management suggestions, pesticide updates, and research results from your favorite Extension specialists.

In addition, next year's issues will regularly include stories related to weather/crop concerns, crop water use, soil moisture levels, crop production updates, equipment adjustments, and variety updates, with special focus sections on specific crops and production management strategies. All this will be included at the same subscription price as last year: \$25.

Don't miss an issue. Use the subscription form on page 5 and order today.



Reader survey

We sent our reader survey later than usual this year, and unfortunately it arrived when many of you were in the middle of harvest. On pages 7 and 8 you'll find another copy of the survey. If you didn't fill out the first one, please take a few minutes now. The results will help us better meet your needs.

DuPont leaving ornamentals market

DuPont Agricultural Products has announced that it will no longer manufacture products for the U.S. ornamentals market. Over the next year, ornamentals will be deleted from product labels, including benomyl (Benlate, Tersan 1991), methomyl (Lannate), oxamyl (Vydate), and fenbutatin oxide (Vendex). Pesticide products labeled for ornamentals may continue to be used for ornamentals until supplies are exhausted.

DuPont believes the potential cost to stay in the ornamentals market will exceed potential revenue.

Larry Schulze
Extension Pesticide Coordinator

Parathion meeting to be in Lincoln

Lincoln will be the site of a national Environmental Protection Agency hearing on the use of parathion. The public hearing will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege streets.

The meeting is to gather information on the benefits of the nine remaining uses of parathion. Cancellation of some products or active ingredients is being considered.

Larry Schulze
Extension Pesticide Coordinator

Let *Inside/Outside* answer your home horticulture and pest control questions

Do you need information on how to establish and maintain trees, shrubs, turf, vegetable gardens and house plants? Do you have insects such as cockroaches, pantry pests, clothes moths, flies or other pests in your house? Are you concerned about structural pests such as termites and carpenter ants which may damage your home? Has your kitchen been invaded by mice?

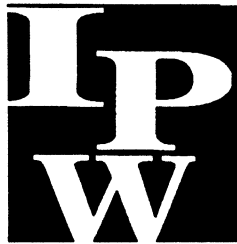
The *Inside/Outside* newsletter can provide the answers and solutions you need to control pests, enjoy your garden, and plan a beautiful landscape.

A one-year subscription costs just \$25 and includes 16 information-packed issues featuring articles written by the Backyard Farmer experts plus many other specialists and agents with the

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension. Subscribe now so you'll be prepared when you start reviewing garden catalogues next spring. The first issue is planned for February 1993.

If you need help on landscape establishment and management, plant diseases, and pest control in your home, backyard or business, subscribe to *Inside/Outside*. Send a check for \$25 to: INSIDE/OUTSIDE, P.O. Box 830918, University of Nebraska, Lincoln NE 68583-0918. Be sure to include your name, complete address and ZIP Code. We look forward to serving you in 1993.

David L. Keith
Extension Entomologist/Urban
Chair, IANR/UNL Urban Pest
Management Team



Insect Science Plant Disease Weed Science News

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Lisa Brown Jasa, Editor

For more information about a particular subject, write the authors at the addresses below:

UNL Department of Entomology
202 Plant Industry Bldg.
Lincoln, NE 68583-0816

UNL Department of Plant Pathology
406 Plant Science Bldg.
Lincoln, NE 68583-0722

UNL Weed Science
Department of Agronomy
279 Plant Science Bldg.
Lincoln, NE 68583-0915

Soil moisture level up from recent years

The 1992 growing season can be characterized as one of the five coldest on record. Preliminary estimates rank the season as the second coldest, but these estimates may be revised after a complete analysis of weather records is completed. The cold summer coupled with above normal precipitation did have one beneficial aspect, crop water use was reduced significantly.

The crop moisture recharge period, which occurs from September through April, has begun on a very positive note. According to the Palmer Drought Severity Index, the areas of the state with the significant moisture deficits are the Panhandle and Southwest districts.

Average soil moisture deficiencies for a 5-foot profile as of Oct. 31 are: Panhandle: 7.50 inches; North Central: 3.50 inches; Northeast: .50 inch; Central: 3.75 inches; East Central: .50 inches; Southwest: 5.50 inches; South Central: 3.50 inches; and the Southeast: .50 inches.

The average moisture a 5-foot soil profile will hold (field capacity minus wilting point) are, by region: Panhandle: 8.7 inches; North Central: 8.0 inches; Northeast: 10.0 inches; Central: 11.0 inches; East Central: 10.0 inches; Southwest: 10.0 inches; South Central: 10.0 inches; and the Southeast: 11.0 inches. Because soils are highly variable, any one soil may hold more or less than the average for the district.

Figure 1 describes Nebraska's normal precipitation regime for November through April. On average, approximately 70 percent of this moisture generally enters the soil profile as recharge. Based on a scenario of normal precipitation and 70 percent infiltration, Figure 2 indicates the percent

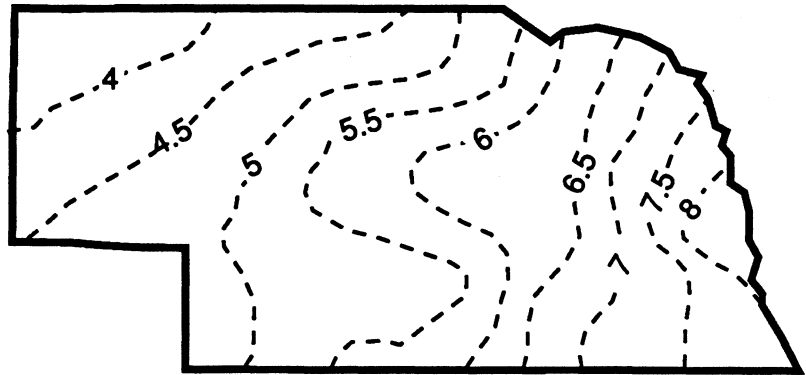


Figure 1. Normal liquid equivalent precipitation in inches, for the November-April period.

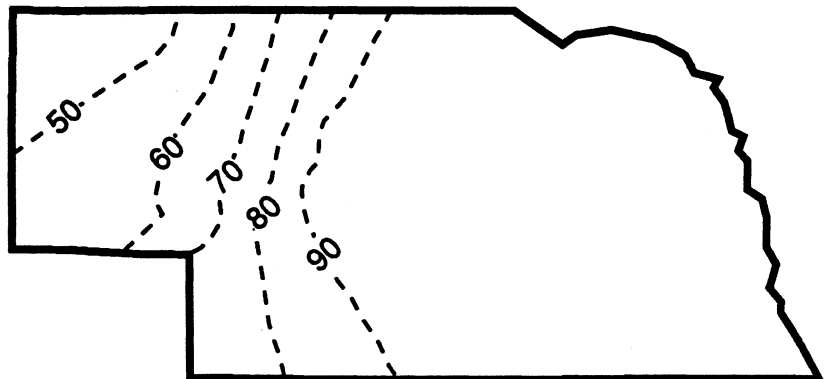


Figure 2. Moisture available as a percent of the total water holding capacity of a soil (field capacity minus wilting point). Projections are for May 1, 1993 and apply to fields where rowcrops were grown in 1992.

available soil water projections for May 1, 1993. For example, if a soil can hold 10 inches of water in a 5-foot profile and has a recharge projection of 65%, then 6.5 inches of soil water would be available next May.

Figure 2 indicates that most farmers east of the Panhandle should have excellent soil moisture reserves entering the 1993 growing season if normal precipitation is received. The eastern two-thirds of Nebraska should have between

90 and 100 percent recharge of any given 5-foot soil profile. In fact, above normal precipitation this winter would increase groundwater recharge, a luxury Nebraska has not experienced in several years. Soil moisture and streamflow projections will be published in this newsletter next spring before the start of the 1993 growing season.

Al Dutcher
State Climatologist
Agricultural Meteorology

1992 IPW News Index

The following index is arranged alphabetically by subject. The first number after the entry (e.g. 92-1) is the issue number. The second number indicates the page within that issue. One issue was misnumbered 92-19 rather than 92-20, so the true 92-19 (Sept. 4) is indicated by 92-19a and the second (Sept. 11) is indicated by 92-19b.

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Crop Watch

Keeping you informed today
so you can manage better tomorrow

Crop Watch is the new name for the *Insect Science, Plant Disease and Weed Science News*. While this newsletter will continue to carry the same in-depth and timely coverage of insect, plant disease and weed problems, it also will include expanded coverage of the effects of weather, crop water use, crop production updates, and 10 special focus features on crops and management tips. A subscription includes 24-26 issues published from March to November.

I would like to subscribe to *Crop Watch* for the 1993 agricultural production season. My check for \$25 made payable to the University of Nebraska is enclosed.

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Reader survey

Dear *IPW News* Subscriber,

We value your opinion and want to know what you think about the *Insect Science, Plant Disease and Weed Science News*? What do you like and what don't you like about it? How can we improve it for you? Please take a moment and fill out this survey. Then fold it, staple or tape it, and return it to us, postage free. Thank you.

1. What is your occupation? _____ How would you categorize it?
Farmer/Rancher _____ Business Manager _____ Sales/Applicators _____
Consultant _____ University Extension/Research _____ Other (specify) _____
2. If you are a producer, 1) how many acres do you farm and what crops do you produce; or 2) what kind and how many livestock do you raise? _____

3. What is most valuable about *IPW News*? _____

4. What changes would you make in the subject matter? _____

5. Are there subject matter areas you would add? If so, what? _____

6. Have you changed any pest management or crop production practices as a result of information in *IPW News*?
Yes _____ No _____ If so, in what areas? (Please check all that apply.)
Pesticide selection _____ Pesticide timing _____ Scouting _____ Nonchemical controls _____
Other (Please describe) _____
7. Can you give an example and/or assign a dollar value per acre to your savings? _____

8. Are you getting the information you need on a timely basis? _____ If not, please give specific examples.

9. What other sources do you use for this kind of information:
Neighbors _____ Crop consultant _____ Extension agent _____ Newspaper _____ Radio _____
Chemical dealer _____ Farm magazine _____ Other _____
10. Do you read all or part of the newsletter and how do you decide what to read? What do you do with the newsletter when you're done reading it? _____

11. How many other people read your newsletter after you're done? _____
12. Do you plan to subscribe to *IPW News* in 1993? Yes _____ No _____ If not, please explain. _____

What is your age? Under 30 _____ 30-40 _____ 40-50 _____ 50-60 _____ Over 60 _____

Additional comments?

Do you regularly use a computer with a modem? Yes _____ No _____ If so, would you be interested in receiving the newsletter via your computer two to three days earlier? Yes _____ No _____

Would you be willing to pay a higher subscription rate to receive the *IPW News* several days earlier by FAX? Yes _____ No _____

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