



Plant Disease in Kansas

Summer row crops diseases and the potential for wheat trouble

Special points of interest:

- *Wheat disease can start to be monitored*
- *Remove dead or dying pines to stay ahead of disease and insect problems.*

As many of the crops are going into the bin from this summer some growers might reflect in what possibly could have been a better harvest.

In northeast Kansas, soybean growers took a hit from Sudden Death Syndrome, a soybean cyst nematode related disease.

Growers saw early symptoms in mid July and the disease steamrolled in the Kaw river valley and north from there up to the Nebraska border with some losses approaching 50%.

For corn, Goss's wilt and anthracnose were diseases of concern. Goss's wilt prevalence in Kansas has been increasing over recent years from a combination of susceptible cultivars, cropping practices, and weather fac-

tors. Numerous new counties were added to the list of infected areas particularly in northeast and east central Kansas (KDA, KSU, and Pioneer). The bacterial wilt and leaf blight disease can be difficult to distinguish from heat scorch but can rob yields still the same. Anthracnose was reported as a problem in the Kaw River Valley production (D. Jardine, KSU).

Rainfall although it brought about some disease issues really helped out the Kansas summer crops. Two hundred bushel corn was reported in southeast Kansas and statewide sorghum yields were vastly improved from the last few years.

What can Kansas expect for problems in wheat production as

the fall planting is coming to an end and many fields have good emergence?

This summer in the west and central production areas, volunteer wheat was common wherever rains allowed the green bridge to flourish. The good news is that WSM was low last year and a lot of disease likely just wasn't around to jump over to the volunteer wheat bridge. Central Kansas has had the WSM highest levels in the state over the past several years and growers in those districts should keep that in mind as recent history should not to be ignored. Symptoms of yellowed mosaic leaves of plants can be now be scouted for along borders and weedy grassy areas near neighboring volunteer.

Pine wilt: don't let your guard down

Pine wilt is now visible in many landscapes and windbreaks of central and eastern Kansas. It is time to remove dead pines regardless of what killed them and to destroy the wood. Pine diseases such as *Diplodia* canker and tip blight and pine wilt can be controlled and remaining live trees can be protected by getting dead trees out of the location. IPS beetles that are also a health problem and confused with pine wilt especially

in western Kansas can be cleaned up by removing dead or dying trees along with cedars.

A couple of reports have come in recently from the Hays area where pine wilt had been kept in check for over 7 years now. Other than that little pine wilt has been found in the western third of the state where clean up efforts by cities, landowners, and arborists have kept the pine wilt disease status as best de-

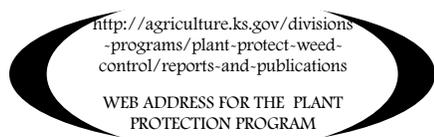
scribed as "checkmate".

The best solution for pine pests, is to remove dead or dying pines thus cleaning up the insects or diseases that winter in that wood. Now is the time.

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INVASIVE SPECIES

Should you keep that tree or have it removed?

I get asked this question several times during the year and finally it was my time to make that decision for myself. I had a soft maple “Autumn Blaze” suffer a lower limb split into the trunk from a straight line wind storm in early July. The tree had grown in my backyard and deck for over 18 years and provided great shade from the western afternoon sun and provided privacy from neighbors. I hated to lose the tree but after taking some time to think about it and considering what might be next I made the decision to remove it. I was lucky to find a great arborist in Manhattan who removed the tree with a crane in a matter of two hours and the problem was solved.

The tree like many soft maples had hidden structural damage to the trunk and limb zone (red arrow on

black canker). The trunk damage was troubling. The tree also suffered like many maple trees from FE deficiency as evidenced by light green leaves in summer and fall. It also harbored various insects including mosquitos, ants, aphids (sooty mold issue) and leaves were filling the rain gutters with fall leaf drop.

The tree was removed and I slept better. It was piece of mind! All in all, I lost a shade tree that helped cool my house at about \$50 in savings a month and then there was the cost of removal.

I have trees along my property line such as redbuds and pines that now get more light and a Chinkapin oak sapling that also seems happier. In the long run, I will promote these trees for privacy and shading for cooling.

In summary here are a few guidelines that I considered. How desirable was the species? **The FE issue was becoming a bigger problem as the tree got bigger and bigger. I liked the shade and the fall colors.** Was there trunk damage?

YES. It was not possible to correct it with pruning. Was there any sign of heart rot or other dead branches? **NO but some likely was hidden.** Power lines and near house? **YES** Had the tree run out of space? **Yes** What did the tree provide? **The tree provided shade for cooling and to the deck for outdoor entertainment and privacy. If was used by birds in the morning and was planted when we moved into the house as a gift.** How much canopy was left? The standard for declining trees is loss of 30-40% of the tree crown for removal. **The tree was not in measurable decline and the crown was about 90% present after losing the big limb to the wind storm. Stored food reserves were adequate in the root system as new growth appeared each year.**

If it was a strong oak, I might have reconsidered my decision, possibly pruned and pampered the tree, and used injections to stabilize the growth of the tree and protect it from boring insects.

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.

