

Wisconsin Pest Survey Report

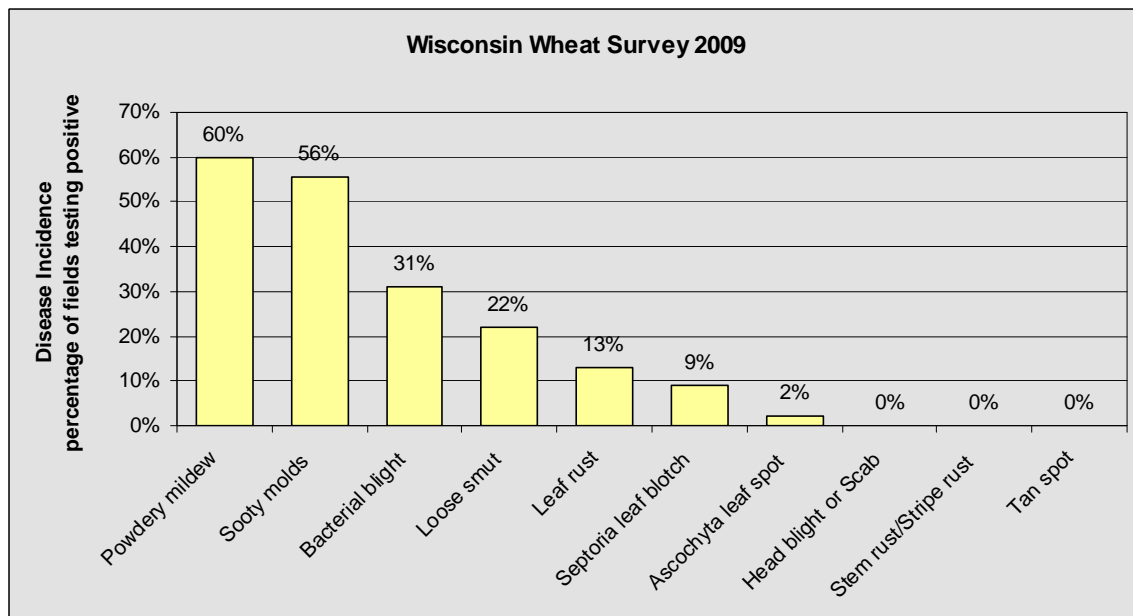
2009 WINTER WHEAT SURVEY

<http://pestsurvey.wi.gov/>

In June 2009, 45 wheat fields in 13 Wisconsin counties showed very low disease incidence overall. Wheat fields ranged in maturity from Feekes Stage 8 (flag leaf visible) to Feekes 10.5.3 (flowering complete to base of spike). Powdery mildew and sooty molds were commonly observed, in 60% and 56% of fields respectively, but severity was very low. Powdery mildew increased in severity after the middle of June, with 12 out of 23 fields reaching or surpassing threshold levels (average of 1-5 pustules per flag leaf). Bacterial blight infected leaves showed characteristic yellow striping or stippling. Laboratory testing confirmed the presence of the bacterium *Pseudomonas syringae* in 31% of fields, including one field infected with *Xanthomonas campestris*. Traces of leaf rust (*Puccinia triticina*) were found in 13% of fields, no stem rust (*P. graminis*) or stripe rust (*P. striiformis*) was detected this early in the season.

Loose smut (*Ustilago tritici*) showed up in 22% of fields compared to 2% in 2008, but at trace levels only. Ascochyta leaf spot (*Ascochyta tritici*) was observed only in 2% of fields compared to 12% last year. Septoria leaf blotch (*Septoria tritici*) infected 9% of fields in 2009 compared to 26% in 2008. Staff collected foliar samples for future virus and phytoplasma testing. Seventy-six percent of fields showed at least trace levels of reddish-purple streaked leaves symptomatic for several viruses, aster yellows phytoplasma, or nutrient deficiency.

No observations of scab (*Fusarium spp.*) or tan spot disease (*Pyrenophora tritici-repentis*) were made during the survey period.



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