

It's time to scout small grains

NEWARK, Del. — Over the next few weeks, most farmers will be busy planting corn. But small grains have begun to grow rapidly and University of Delaware extension plant pathologist Bob Mulrooney says it's important to scout these fields for early signs of pest activity, so that steps can be taken for effective control.

In particular, Mulrooney urges growers to look for three diseases on wheat — leaf rust, powdery mildew, and wheat spindle streak mosaic virus.

Leaf rust can be identified by its rust-brown, oval pustules. This fungus attacks newly seeded wheat in the fall and overwinters in infected plants. Come spring, it produces spores which are most likely to occur in the earliest planted wheat and in highly

susceptible varieties such as Tyler and Hart. Scout fields now, and if rust is present, spray at the jointing stage (Stage 6) - but not before - with Bayleton at 4 to 8 ounces per acre. If reinfection occurs, spray again when the flag leaf first emerges.

Powdery mildew is another common cereal disease that may be present in some fields, though it's been less troublesome in recent years because more growers are planting resistant varieties. When scouting for this fungus, Mulrooney says to look for small, fluffy white tufts of growth on leaves and leaf sheaths at the base of plants now, or on the upper part of plants later in the season.

Powdery mildew, like leaf rust, can overwinter on wheat. Spring infections also occur from wind-

blown spores. Infection can take place within a wide range of temperatures (41 to 86 degrees F) and humidity (50 to 100 percent). Look for symptoms first in early planted fields, and in those which received high levels of nitrogen.

If powdery mildew is present, treat at the jointing stage with 2 to 4 ounces of Bayleton per acre. Should weather conditions favor spread of the disease, a second application may be needed to protect the flag leaf from infection.

Wheat spindle streak mosaic virus (WSSMV) is transmitted to wheat by a soil-borne fungus that thrives under cool, wet conditions. It was present in many fields last season. "If we have a repeat of last spring's weather," Mulrooney says, "we can expect to see WSSMV again in many fields."

In early spring, this disease

appears on the leaves as narrow, yellow-green flecks which taper at both ends and run parallel to leaf veins. In 1983, WSSMV was widespread in McNair 1003, Hunter, and Coker 762. Little or no infection was observed on Tyler, Wheeler, Pioneer Brand 2550, Saluda, Massey, Hart, Feland, or Abe. The specialist says WSSMV did not appear to affect yields, but cautions growers not to confuse it with powdery mildew, which does.

Currently, rotation and resistant varieties provide the best degree of control for this virus.

PMMB

(Continued from Page A1)

In a written statement, the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA) urged the board to schedule hearings as quickly as possible. While PFA supports the Milk Marketing Board's efforts to provide orderly marketing of the state's dairy products, it feels the board was hasty in its decision for statewide deregulation.

"The Milk Marketing Board may have been a little hasty in deciding to end control statewide when they were only being petitioned in certain areas of the state," PFA president Keith Eckel stated in the release.

"While our organization believes the Board should get out of the business of setting minimum retail prices, we don't think it should be done until a mechanism is established to protect milk processors from price-cutting wars and below-cost sales," Eckel added.

The board's decision for statewide deregulation, Veno said, was a matter of continuity and to avoid problems of regional deregulation.

"The board is very concerned about the effect on the farmer, the effect on the consumer and the effect on the dealer," Veno said. "We want the decision to be equitable for all."

The Pennsylvania State Grange, in favor of minimum price controls, is not pleased with the board's decision, according to public relations director Linda Blake, and plans to submit a formal protest to the Milk Marketing Board.

The board, Blake said, had brought stability to the marketing of milk and dairy products. The Grange would like to see this stability continue, she added.

Although deregulation officially begins Monday, stores began cutting prices this week in the wake of the board's decision. Prices, Veno said, have dropped anywhere from 30 to 50 cents.

Veno quoted a price drop of 24 cents in the Pittsburgh area for a gallon of two percent milk. The minimum price in the Pittsburgh and Erie areas had been \$1.82 a gallon. It now stands at \$1.58 a gallon.

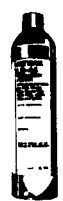
No citations will be issued to stores which dropped prices before the April 23 deadline, Veno said.



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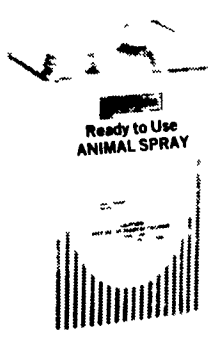
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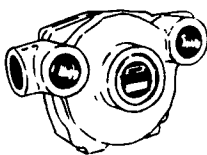
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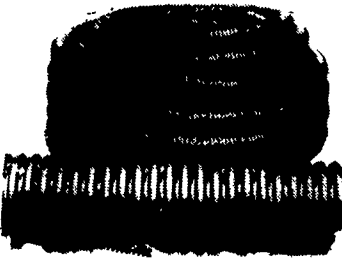
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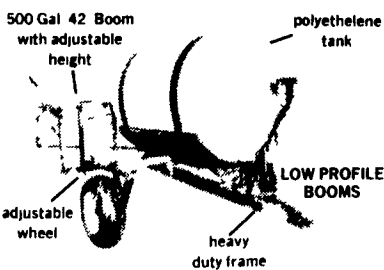
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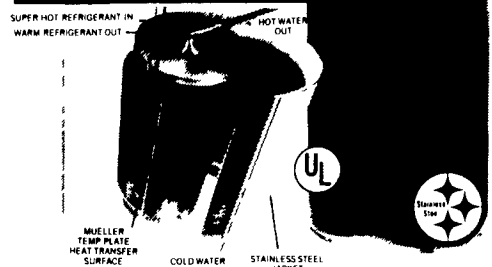


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