

# Scientists Conquer Wheat Killer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Scientists from the world's leading research center for corn and wheat announced a victory in combatting "leaf rust," a blight that has been a scourge of wheat since Ancient Roman times. Wheat is the world's second most important food crop and is grown on more acres of land than any other cereal.

The announcement was made by the Mexico-based International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) at International Centers Week, the annual meeting of donors and representatives of CIMMYT and 17 other research centers that comprise the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

(CGIAR). The CGIAR, which seeks to increase the world food supply through agricultural research programs, is supported by 40 countries, private foundations, and international organizations.

CIMMYT researchers discovered the "cure" for leaf rust in an old Brazilian-grown wheat plant

that provides natural protection against the disease. The Brazilian wheat's resistance has been found to provide long-term defense against the disease even though it can change form and attack repeatedly. The development could have important implications for U.S. wheat farmers, particularly in Kansas and northern Oklahoma, where the winter wheat crop has recently suffered a major assault by the disease.

"After more than two decades of research in the field, we've finally beaten leaf rust without the use of deadly chemicals," said "Some 10 million acres of wheat harvested in the region suffered an average yield loss of 15 percent, and some fields lost as much as 30 percent of their crop," said Roelfs. This amounts to an estimated loss of \$90 million for the region's farmers.

Among U.S. winter wheat farmers, gaining leaf rust resistance has not been a priority because normal hard freezes break the leaf

rust cycle. However, with changing weather patterns and resulting mild winters, these wheat crops are now in peril.

"Although the cure is at hand, much work needs to be done to install leaf-rust resistance into wheat worldwide and permanently remove it as an economic threat," said CIMMYT's Winkelmann. "This can only be done through systematic breeding programs and agricultural cooperation among countries around the world."

CIMMYT is distributing the leaf rust-resistant wheat to farmers and scientists in more than 100 countries as part of its international testing network, which annually sends out one million packets of seeds. Other CIMMYT wheats provide protection against a range of diseases, drought, and toxic soils.

CIMMYT is a nonprofit, scientific research and training organization headquartered in El Batan, Mexico.

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275	27"x44" x60"	14	210	Horizontal	\$133.00
275	27"x44" x60"	12	275	Vertical	\$147.00
275	27"x44" x60"	12	275	Horizontal	\$147.00

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275	27"x44" x60"	14	213	Horizontal	\$147.00
275	27"x44" x60"	12	279	Vertical	\$162.00
275	27"x44" x60"	12	279	Horizontal	\$162.00
330	27"x44" x72"	12	320	Vertical	\$216.00
330	27"x44" x72"	12	320	Horizontal	\$216.00

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500	4'0"	5'5"	12	530	\$413.00
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1,000	4'0"	10'8"	7	1,158	\$498.00

## NEW STEEL UNDERGROUND STI-P3 FUEL STORAGE TANKS

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550	4'0"	6'0"	7	831	\$ 807.00
1,000	4'0"	10'8"	7	1,266	\$1036.00

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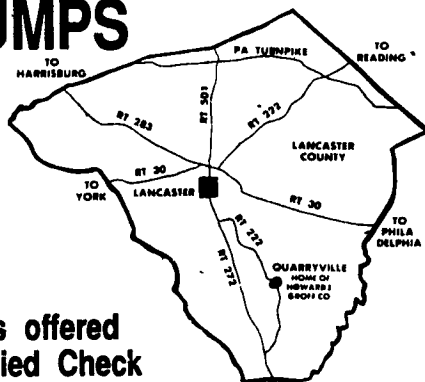
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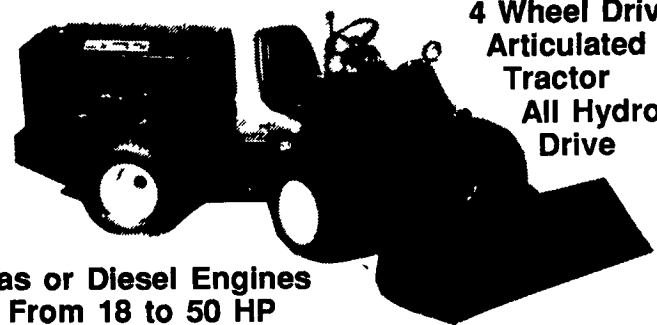
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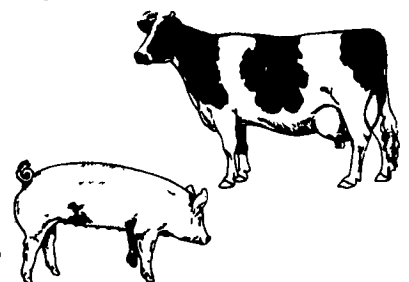
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