

Pest Management News Runnels-Tom Green Counties

March 20, 2020

Volume 32 No. 4



Integrated Pest Management

Runnels-Tom Green Counties
Haley Kennedy EA-IPM
608 Sealy Ave Suite A
Ballinger, TX 76821
325-365-2219 (o)
832-331-9877 (m)

**Runnels County Ag Day
POSTPONED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

If you would like to be added to
the newsletter email list please
email:
haley.kennedy@ag.tamu.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

The overall wheat crop is continuing to progress and over the past week we receive some more rainfall across the two counties. The intermittent rains we have received lately are perfect for the development of wheat diseases. I have seen both tan spot and stripe rust in Runnels County. Corn planting started and pretty much finished in the past week or so.

Amid ongoing concerns and continued nationwide spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), Runnels County Ag Day, set for April 2nd, has been postponed until further notice. This decision has been made out of the abundance of caution to minimize potential community spread. Our Ag Day Planning Committee will meet as soon as possible of rescheduling at a later date.

WHEAT

In last week's newsletter I mentioned that there have been a couple of reports of stripe rust in McCulloch County (Figure 1). I did find the start of a little bit of stripe rust in the southwestern part of Runnels County (Figure 2). The stripe rust in all these cases weren't widespread in the field and fungicides were not necessary. Remember, it is important to know your variety's rust resistance.



Figure 1. Stripe rust pustules on wheat leaf in McCulloch County (3/9/20)



Figure 2. Stripe rust pustules on wheat leaf in Runnels County (3/18/20)

There have been a few reports of Tan Spot in Runnels County—all of these cases were in fields that were wheat behind wheat. Tan spot is more likely to show up in fields that are wheat behind wheat or reduced tillage. Tan spot first appears on leaves as small, tan to brown diamond or lens-shaped spots. The lesions have a dark brown spot near the center of it and are surrounded by a yellow border (Figure 3). As the lesions expand, they may merge together resulting in large portions of dead tissue. Tan spot will first infect the lower leaves that are near the soil surface and then continues to progress up the plant, resulting in the death of severely infected lower leaves. Management options include crop rotation, tillage, variety resistance, and fungicide applications.



Figure 3. Tan spot lesions with darkened centers surrounded by yellow halos, Runnels County

AUXIN TRAINING

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the future Auxin Training dates—April 2 and April 8, have been cancelled. We understand that many of you still need to get this training completed for this year. We are working on how to administer the auxin trainings with the given circumstances. I will keep you updated on this issue.

PARAQUAT TRAINING

Any person who intends to **mix, load, apply, or handle** paraquat must complete the EPA approved paraquat training. You must be a certified applicator AND complete this training in order to use paraquat. The training must be retaken every three years. Currently the only way to do this training is through an online link. (<https://npsec.us/paraquat>).

This online training requires about 45 mins to an hour of your time, with a 15-question test at the end of the training. You must score 100% to receive your certificate.

Trade names of commercial products used in this report is included only for better understanding and clarity. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understand that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M University System is implied.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

2020 Runnels County Ag Day

Amid ongoing concerns and continued nationwide spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), Runnels County Ag Day, set for April 2nd, has been postponed until further notice.

This decision has been made out of an abundance of caution to minimize potential community spread. Our Ag Day Planning Group will meet as soon as possible to explore the possibility of rescheduling at a later date.

RUNNELS COUNTY
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

608 Sealy Ave.
Ballinger, Texas 76821

E-mail:
m-vahlenkamp@tamu.edu
haley.kennedy@ag.tamu.edu
kandice.everitt@ag.tamu.edu

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. If you need any type of accommodation to participate in this program or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact the Runnels County Extension Office no later than two weeks prior to training date.

