"A TALE OF TWO PADDOCKS"

The photo that says it all, the top paddock of wheat was sown with fertiliser treated with 4Farmers Triadimefon, while the one over the fence was planted without the use of a fungicide.

The treated paddock remained clean, while Stripe Rust was detected in the lower crop. Although it received a foliar spray, the damage had been done, with the yield less than half that of the in-furrow paddock.

It's the annual decision, whether to take out a $5/ha insurance policy, or wait and see.

Both valid points, both valid options, but with the advent of Stripe Rust in WA, the odds are now moving even further in favour of the insurance option.

Why in-furrow is the best option

THE quoted resistance to Stripe Rust in partly tolerant varieties (ratings of 5-6) is actually an adult rating, so early spores can still infect these seedlings and grow with them. The infestation doesn't become apparent until spring when infected plants appear as "hot spots," ready to infect the rest of the paddock.

A treatment with a foliar spray can be effective, but as the fungicide cannot enter the plant, only those leaves that have emerged and are thoroughly coated can resist the infection.

But, applying a fungicide into the soil is the best option because the chemical can be taken up into the plant.

Coating the seed is short term because too much fungicide on the seed affects germination.

Treating the fertiliser gives the best combination of effectiveness and longevity and is most cost effective because for less than $5/ha, 4Farmers Triadimefon can be used as an in-furrow treatment to give 12 – 16 weeks protection against rusts, Take-all, Powdery Mildew and (barley). scald

4Farmers Pty Ltd
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4FARMERS, FOR FARMERS

GREEN BRIDGES

FARMERS are used to relying on the long, hot WA summers to stop diseases and insects surviving, but it is surprising to discover just how small the Green Bridge need be. To allow Stripe rust to survive, only one Stripe Rust infected leaf in 30ha is enough to produce a rust infection.

The spores are wind blown and, although they require a period of leaf wetness and temperatures below 18C for a new infection to develop, they can survive paddock temperatures of 40C once established.

It shows just how important the elimination of Green Bridges is.

Sound familiar?

WHEN talking about handling rust outbreaks, a university Professor recently noted that, if you can see the rust, you might already be too late.

Prevention is the best method of attack and that the spray should be applied before infection, not before symptoms become obvious.

He also emphasised that how the spray is applied is as important as the spray itself because it must coat lower, middle and upper leaves and – if rust is somewhere in the region, spray immediately!

No, he isn't from UWA, but from Sainte Maria University in Brazil and he was talking about soy bean rust.

He also recommended that farmers spray between 9.00PM and 9.00AM when the dew is on the leaves and emphasised that water pH should be between 5 and 7.

He would probably feel at home in the WA wheatbelt.

A THOUGHT FROM e.anon.
I take each day as it comes, but I'm running three weeks behind.

Technical information can be obtained from 4Farmers agents or from Terry Piper, Product Support, 4Farmers, Welshpool. Phone 9356 3445.