

## WHEAT DISEASE THRESHOLDS

Gene Milus and Stephen Vann

*The following threshold system is a general guide for whether or not there is adequate disease pressure to justify fungicide use. The relative susceptibility of the variety, favorable weather conditions during the spring and location in Arkansas should also be considered. Check the weekly Arkansas Wheat Newsletter – published during March, April and May each year – for current information on these factors. The newsletter is available through your local Cooperative Extension Service Office, by email or on the Internet at [www.uaex.edu](http://www.uaex.edu).*

Feekes Growth Stage	Disease	Indicator Leaf	Treatment Threshold
GS 8	Leaf Rust	Flag-3 and above	1 pustule/leaf
	Septoria tritici leaf blotch	Flag-3 and above	25% of leaves infected
	Powdery Mildew	Flag-2 and above	5 pustules/leaf
	Stagonospora blotch <sup>1</sup>	Flag-2 and above	10% of leaves infected
	Tan Spot <sup>2</sup>	Flag-2 and above	25% of leaves infected
	Stripe Rust <sup>3</sup>	Any leaf	1 pustule/20 leaves
GS 9 - GS 10.5	Leaf Rust	Flag-2 and above	1 pustule/leaf
	Septoria tritici leaf blotch	Flag-2 and above	25% of leaves infected
	Powdery Mildew	Flag-1 and above	5 pustules/leaf
	Stagonospora blotch <sup>1</sup>	Flag-2 and above	10% of leaves infected
	Tan Spot <sup>2</sup>	Flag-2 and above	25% of leaves infected
	Stripe Rust <sup>3</sup>	Any leaf	1 pustule/20 leaves

<sup>1</sup>Stagonospora (glume) blotch is more effectively controlled by seed treatment fungicides because it is primarily seedborne under Arkansas conditions and foliar symptoms are difficult to scout for in the spring. See Wheat Seed Treatment Table for details.

<sup>2</sup>Tan spot is rare in Arkansas. Fields with lots of infected residue (no-till wheat) are more likely to have the disease; however, the identity of the disease should always be confirmed before a fungicide is considered since tan spot symptoms can be confused with herbicide injury and other non-disease problems.

<sup>3</sup>All fields with active hot spots of stripe rust should be sprayed if found prior to Feekes GS 10.5.