

Cereal Diseases Observed at Experimental Farms in Western Canada

F. J. Zillinsky

Powdery mildew was the most serious disease on winter cereals at Saanichton, B. C. It was observed in moderate to heavy amounts on winter wheat, oats and barley. Yellow dwarf on barley, red leaf and Helminthosporium avenae on oats, and leaf rust on wheat were present in trace to light amounts. A peculiar stem break condition was noticed on a few barley strains but could not be attributed to insect or mechanical damage.

At Agassiz, B. C., Septoria leaf blotch was severe on oats. Some red leaf and Helminthosporium leaf blotch were also found. Leaf yellowing was noticed on four oat introductions but it did not appear to be caused by either a fungus or bacteria. Mildew and leaf spotting diseases were present on barley varieties. Mildew and leaf rust were observed on winter wheat plots.

Diseases were not conspicuous on wheat, oats or flax at Lacombe, Alta. at this time. The two most conspicuous diseases of barley were scald and net blotch. Other barley diseases observed were bacterial blight and false stripe. Dr. W. P. Skoropad assisted in the identification of cereal diseases at Lacombe.

Diseases on cereals were of very minor importance at Scott, Sask. A few wheat plants which appeared to have been attacked by root rot were noticed. Drought was extremely damaging to all spring-sown crops.

Few signs of disease were observed at Indian Head, Sask. Halo blight was moderate to heavy on some strains of oats but not general in field plots. The most common barley disease was bacterial stripe, particularly on the Lethbridge strains.

Incidence of Barley Diseases at Lacombe, Alta., 1957

W. P. Campbell

Variety	Scald	Net blotch	Septoria	Loose smut	False stripe
Herta	tr.	-	-	-	-
Husky	sl.	tr.	tr.	tr.	-
Velvon II	tr.	tr.	-	-	-
Parkland	sl.	sl.	-	-	-
Traill	tr.	tr.	-	tr.	-
UM 570	mod.	tr.	-	sl.	-

(continued)