

The 2023 first forecast of stripe rust for the eastern Pacific Northwest

By Dr. Xianming Chen

Based on the weather conditions in November and December 2022, stripe rust in the 2023 wheat growing season is forecast to be in the lower range of moderate epidemic level (20-40% yield loss on susceptible varieties). Using forecast models based on the 2022 November and December weather data,



yield loss of highly susceptible winter wheat varieties in the 2023 crop season is forecast to be in the range of 16 to 33% with an average of 21% using different models. This number is lower than the forecast (34%) made last January for the 2022 crop season due to the relatively cold weather of December 2022 compared to December 2021. Currently grown varieties are forecast to be 0 to 15% yield losses depending upon the level of resistance or susceptibility of individual varieties. Based on the forecast, fields grown with susceptible winter wheat varieties (stripe rust ratings 7 to 9) may need the early fungicide application at the time of herbicide application and varieties with ratings 0 to 6 may not need fungicide application. The early

prediction made in January is often close to the real situation, but usually may not be as good as the prediction in March based on the entire winter weather. We will make another prediction in early March. However, stripe rust resistant or moderately resistant varieties (stripe rust ratings 1 to 4 in the Seed Buying Guide) should be planted for spring wheat crops.

Stay up-to-date with the latest Stripe Rust conditions. Visit Dr. Xianming Chen's Stripe Rust Alert page at striperust.wsu.edu/news



WSU EXTENSION
Walla Walla County

Coming up...

March

18, 9:00—2:30 Super Saturday
Blue Mountain Community Church. Youth in Grades 1-12 take part in a variety of fun and hands-on workshops. Must pre-register to attend on the WSU Walla Walla County Extension Website. 4-H and non 4-H youth encouraged to attend. extension.wsu.edu/wallawalla/

23, Wavex Viticulture Webinar
Deep Root Zone Irrigation. To Register: <https://bit.ly/3IXCIra>

April

4, Plant Clinics Begin WSU Walla Walla County Master Gardeners are in the office Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00 am—11:00 am & 2:00 pm—4:00 pm. They answer gardening questions and help diagnose plant problems.

21-23, April Fools Boer Goat Weekend and Show
For more: <http://www.cascadebga.org/april-fools-weekend.html>



Master Gardeners Back in April

WSU Walla Walla County Extension Master Gardener volunteers will resume office plant clinics April 4, 2023.

Come get your garden questions answered by our university trained Master Gardener Volunteers. You can find us in the Extension Office at 328 W Poplar. Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 am—11:00 am and 2:00 pm—4:00 pm.

Master Gardeners can help you diagnose problems in your landscape or vegetable gardens. They can give you advice on plant selection, caring for plants, garden planning, treating problems, and more.

You will also find Master Gardeners at the Walla Walla Downtown Farmer's Market each Saturday, starting May 6.



AN INLAND NW VEGETABLE GARDEN SCHEDULE

Adapted from Toni Fitzgerald, Gardening in the Inland Northwest

LATE WINTER

About 10 weeks before last frost

INDOORS

Start: Cabbage, Cauliflower, Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Peppers

LATE WINTER/ EARLY SPRING

4-6 weeks before last frost

INDOORS

Start: Tomato, Eggplant

OUTDOORS

Direct seed: Onion sets or plants, Jerusalem artichokes, Asparagus crowns, Rhubarb roots

EARLY SPRING

2-4 weeks before last frost

INDOORS

Start: Cucumbers, Melon, Squash

OUTDOORS

Direct seed: Radishes, Peas, Chives, Lettuce, Spinach (and other greens)

OUTDOORS

SPRING

About 2 weeks before last frost

DIRECT SEED

Beets, Carrots, Turnips, Potatoes

TRANSPLANT

Cabbage, Cauliflower, Broccoli, Brussels sprouts

SPRING

On last frost date

DIRECT SEED

Beans and corn (be prepared to replant if frost occurs)

TRANSPLANT

Cucumbers (have covers handy), Melons, Squash

EARLY SUMMER

2-4 weeks after last frost

DIRECT SEED

Okra, Carrots

TRANSPLANT

Tomatoes, Peppers, Eggplant

WSU Ag Weather data for the College Place Weather Station: the earliest last frost recorded since 2007 was March 26, 2016. The latest last frost was May 11, 2012. The average last frost date is April 20.

Benton County flock tests positive for bird flu; flock owners encouraged to self-report

Adapted from Amber Betts, WSDA

A Benton County flock owner reported the sudden death of multiple birds in their small domestic flock in early February. The National Veterinarian Services Laboratory (NVSL) confirmed HPAI H5N1 results.

In an effort to mitigate cases, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is reminding flock owners of the domestic sick bird online reporting tool. The online tool complements the existing WSDA sick bird reporting hotline as well as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's online reporting tool for wild birds.

Enhanced biosecurity can protect flocks and preserve a farm from diseases, like HPAI. Flock owners are encouraged to take measures such as proper cleaning and disinfection and covering coops to protect from waterfowl introductions of the virus.

After a confirmed detection, state and federal animal health officials monitor flocks for HPAI symptoms within a 10-kilometer surveillance zone around the detection site. Flock owners in a surveillance zone are encouraged to self-report the health of their birds using the online surveillance self-reporting tool. State veterinarians seek to contact every flock owner in a surveillance area to check on the health of their flock; self-reporting allows a veterinarian to make phone contact to discuss biosecurity and symptom monitoring advice without having to make in-person contact.

State veterinarians say the biggest risk factor to date is direct contact with wild waterfowl. Since May 5, 2022, when the WSDA announced the first Washington case, all infected flocks had contact with wild waterfowl.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife continues to report increasing numbers of cases in wild birds and detections in three raccoons and most recently, a bobcat. While the risk of avian influenza is always present from interactions with wild waterfowl in the Pacific flyway, spring migration in the next four to six weeks may present an additional challenge.

Birds that have already died should be double-bagged and kept in a cooler on ice until WSDA veterinarians can arrange for sampling. Sick or dead wild birds should not be touched or moved and can be reported using the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's online reporting tool.

Bird Flu Links and Resources:

Domestic Sick Bird Reporting Tool:

<https://bit.ly/40ZyXss>

Or call WSDA Sick Bird Hotline:

1-800-606-3056

Wild Sick Bird Reporting Tool:

<https://bit.ly/3XDh93k>

Biosecurity resources:

<https://poultrybiosecurity.org/>

Online self-reporting tool for those in a surveillance zone:

<https://bit.ly/3lqo4s9>

WSDA Bird Flu webpage:

<https://bit.ly/3S3xFbH>

WSDA Interactive Map:

<https://bit.ly/3RZSUv0>

WSDA Bird Flu Updates Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wabirdflu2022>

Updated Antibiotic Guidelines

*Adapted from
National Cattlemen's
Beef Association*

Coming on JUNE 11, 2023, over the counter (OTC) Medically Important Antibiotics for animals will require a prescription from your veterinarian.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine Guidance for Industry (GFI) #263 instructs animal drug companies to voluntarily change labels so that medically important antibiotics, which are medically important for human medicine, that are currently available over the counter (OTC) for animals will transition to prescription only. These medications will require a prescription from a licensed veterinarian for legal use and livestock producers will need an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) before purchasing prescription antibiotics.

How Can I Prepare?

- Talk to a veterinarian.
- Build a Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR).
- Schedule routine visits.
- Set treatment protocols and on-farm training for employees.
- Download and read the BQA Antibiotic Stewardship for Cattle Producers Guide: <https://bit.ly/3YUihRH>

Find a list of affected drugs:

<https://bit.ly/3SybBWx>



4-H Happenings:

Top Chef Competition– In February, Walla Walla County 4-H held it's annual Top Chef contest. There were 5 Contestants in 6 categories. They made everything from brownies to dried fruit. Contestants were excited to be back in person for Top Chef after a few years off! The Judges were highly impressed with the quality of food made, and the presentation skills of the contestants. Overall it was a huge success.

Super Saturday- Our annual Super Saturday event is back! March 18th from 9:00-2:30, this event is open to all community members in 1st-12th grade. Come join us for a day of fun lessons and gain some life skills. We have classes on everything from fly fishing and sewing, to bridge building and robotics. Registration information available on the Walla Walla County Extension website.

4-H dates to remember:

3/15 4-H Enrollment Deadline for WW Fair & Frontier Days

3/25 2023 WW Fair & Frontier Days Beef Weigh-in (pre-registration required, see website for details)



Dr. Rachel Wieme, WSU Extension Agronomist

WSU Walla Walla County Extension welcomes new Agronomist

Dr. Rachel Wieme is the new regional agronomy Extension specialist based in Walla Walla County. Rachel is originally from central Minnesota. She completed her bachelor's degree in Minnesota at St. Olaf College, where she majored in Biology and Spanish. She credits living and doing research on an organic chocolate plantation in Costa Rica during that time as a major influence on her research career path. After more research and advocacy for no-till

practices in the cornfields of Minnesota, she came to Washington State University in Pullman to earn a PhD in Soil Science. Her project focused on organic crop rotations with quinoa in eastern Washington – such as the effects on productivity, economics, and nutrient cycling – and she enjoyed working with stakeholders on the many challenges in trying new crops and diverse management systems.

After finishing her PhD, she continued to do research and education for WSU, generally focused on soil health and other aspects of sustainable agricultural systems. For example, she collaborated with WSU Extension specialists doing research on lime and micronutrient applications for low-pH soils. She has also been working on education, training, and stakeholder engagement for composting as a disposal method for livestock mortalities and slaughter waste. Through both of these projects, she has thoroughly enjoyed getting to meet and collaborate with such a wide variety of producers, which is another reason why she is looking forward to her new position with Extension.

Rachel says "I have fallen in love with the inland Northwest over the last ten years that I've lived and worked here. I'm excited to learn more about the Walla Walla Valley specifically, and to develop partnerships that will help build a strong agronomy Extension program for the needs of the region." She will continue working with the community and stakeholders, helping producers find best management practices that lead to improvements in soil health, crop nutrition, and financial outcomes for their operations. She is also interested in cropping diversification and integrated crop-livestock systems.

When not at work you can look for Rachel with her dog out hiking, biking, skiing, and camping, or maybe out at one of the local breweries tasting some locally-grown beer.

2022 Alfalfa variety trials available

Nine alfalfa trials were harvested for yield in irrigated central Washington State in 2022. Three conventional trials are conducted near Othello, WA, and three conventional and three Roundup Ready™ (RR) trials near Pasco, WA.

2016-2022 Trials available here: wa-hay.org/wshgawsu-alfalfa-variety-trials.html



How to replace damaged or missing pesticide labels, or help with the fine print

Adapted from Dale Whaley, WSU Wheat & Small Grains

If you hold a pesticide or applicators license, you're likely to have heard the phrase "Label is the LAW" or have been reminded at workshops or presentations to always READ the label before buying the pesticide, storing the pesticide, mixing and applying the pesticide, and disposing of any unused pesticide and/or empty containers. It is also your responsibility to ensure that the pesticide is labeled for the crop or site where you intend to make the application and that you have the necessary application equipment and any personal protective equipment (PPE) that may be required. This is all fine and good, but if the label and the information that is provided are so important, then why is the print often so small that one can hardly see it? What if the label is damaged and is now illegible, or is completely missing, or if you would like to have a copy for your records at your shop, then what?

There are two websites that provide labels for pesticides (i.e., herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc.): the CDMS database and WSU's Pesticide

Information Center OnLine (PICOL) Database.

To use the CDMS database, type in the correct spelling of the product name and it will provide a PDF copy of the specimen label. After it is saved to a computer, one can print a new label that may be missing or damaged and keep it with the product. One can also increase the size of the font by zooming in, thereby making it easier to read.

The PICOL database provides information about pesticide products registered in either Oregon, Washington, or in both states. Searches for copies of the labels (PDF) can be done by state, intended user, EPA/State Reg. No., product name, the active ingredient, crop, and/or pest.

I always encourage landowners to have a legible copy at locations where pesticides are mixed and loaded, storage facilities, as well as accessible when spraying, in case there is an accident during the application process.

Links

Pesticide Information Center Online Database (PICOL): picol.cahnrs.wsu.edu

CDMS Database: www.cdms.net/Label-Database



List your farm for free on Eat Local First

Adapted from WSU Tree Fruit

The Washington Food & Farm Finder is helping consumers connect with farmers and local food businesses all across Washington.

The Washington Food & Farm Finder from the Eat Local First Collaborative is a robust online directory of local farms and food businesses that is dedicated to helping consumers find and access local food across the state. This resource provides a valuable marketing service to farms by connecting them to more potential customers. The Washington Food & Farm Finder provides helpful tools like a CSA Finder and Wholesale Finder, in addition to search criteria based on product offerings, location, agritourism events, and more. Farmers that sell direct to consumers or through wholesale channels are encouraged to register and create their *free* listing at <https://eatlocalfirst.org/register/>

For questions please contact Micha Ide: micha@eatlocalfirst.org.

Washington Food & Farm Finder: <https://eatlocalfirst.org/>

Eat Local First Collaborative: https://eatlocalfirst.org/elf_collaborative/



Think twice before giving bunnies or chicks as gifts

Adapted from Dr. Susan Kerr, WSDA Animal Health Program

Although it may be tempting to gift a small child with a fuzzy baby rabbit or chick as an Easter gift, giving such animals as gifts should only be done after careful consideration for the health of the children and the well-being of the animal.

It is common for a child to nuzzle or even kiss a baby chick. However, poultry can carry *Salmonella* bacteria on or in their bodies, and some types of this bacteria can make people very ill.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported an increase in salmonella cases associated with the increase in backyard poultry raising in response to COVID-19 pandemic food security issues.

Proper handwashing will go a long way to keeping yourself and your child safe, but small children are notoriously lax about handwashing; they put things in their mouths, have close contact with the ground, and sometimes interact very closely with animals. All these actions put children at greater risk of Salmonellosis, which can cause severe diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration, and serious complications.

Another concern about gifting a chick is what becomes of the chick as it grows. Will you be prepared for a laying hen that can live 10 or more years, or a rooster who will let the neighborhood know when it is 5 a.m.?

The same concern holds true for rabbits, also often given as a gift.

Once interest in the bunny wanes, many rabbits are dumped in parks or other remote areas. Freed domestic rabbits are not prepared for life in the wild and usually succumb to starvation or predators. Surviving rabbits wreak havoc on ecosystems by competing with native rabbit species, destroying desirable plants, and reproducing at alarming rates.

To make matters worse, in recent years a serious rabbit disease has been spreading more widely in the Washington and the U.S. – Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease, or RHD. This virus is highly contagious among the European rabbits most commonly sold, and releasing them into the wild

increases the risk of the disease spreading into native wild rabbits.

If, despite your best efforts and intentions, you are no longer able to care for any type of pet, it should be taken to an appropriate animal shelter and never set loose in the wild.

If you are not prepared to feed, house, and care for the animal for the duration of its life—which can be years—in order to keep both people and pets safe, consider sticking to a stuffed animal—there is no feeding or waste to worry about, and you can always throw them in the washer!



WSDA now posts pesticide exam results online

Pesticide licensing exam results are now available on the [WSDA website](https://www.wa.gov/wa-wsda)! Exam results will appear as either pass or fail and will be posted online for up to three weeks. Results for testers who have not paid all required fees will not appear. Results will be available online as early as two business days after exams are graded. Exam results will continue to be mailed out after each exam session.

Check your results here: <https://bit.ly/3K6Bo6s>

Did you know Walla Walla County Extension can proctor Private Applicator and Limited Private Applicator exams in our office? We also have study guides available to purchase for most WSDA pesticide licensing exams. Call Amy to schedule a test: 509-524-2685

POSTMASTER send address changes to:

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