Wheat stem rust and wheat stripe rust situation, November 2016

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The first report of wheat stem rust during the growing season has been reported from Victoria. An update is also provided on the reports of wheat stripe rust including pathotype determinations where known. Growers in the southern region are advised to monitor their crops for wheat stem rust. Samples of all rusts observed in cereal crops should be submitted for pathotype analysis to the Australian Cereal Rust Survey.

Wheat stem rust

A sample of wheat stem rust has been received on the 14th November from Normanville, Victoria (Figure 1). Samples were received off leaves of the varieties Phantom and Grenade CL Plus. Wheat stem rust has a short latent period of 8–10 days from infection to sporulation, enabling it to spread rapidly under warm and humid conditions. Early detection is critical to effectively manage the disease in a crop. Growers in the southern region are advised to closely monitor crops for wheat stem rust on a regular basis until the end of the current cropping cycle.

For further information on identifying and managing wheat stem rust see: https://grdc.com.au/Resources/Fact sheets/2016/02/Wheat-Rust-Northern-Southern-and-Western-Regions

Figure 1. Reported detection of wheat stem rust in November 2016.
Wheat stripe rust

The cool, wet conditions over winter delayed the development and spread of wheat stripe rust in crops. Historically, the spread of the disease usually slows down from early November. That does not appear to be the case this year with samples continuing to be submitted from the southern region. As in previous years, pathotype 134 E16 A+ 17+ continues to dominate the population based on samples received. Pathotype 134 E16 A+ has been detected in samples received from Jerilderie in New South Wales and Marnoo in Victoria.

Figure 2. Reported detections of wheat stripe rust in eastern Australia in 2016.