Ergot Alert Newsletter

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Central Oregon (Jefferson County) – June 17, 2015

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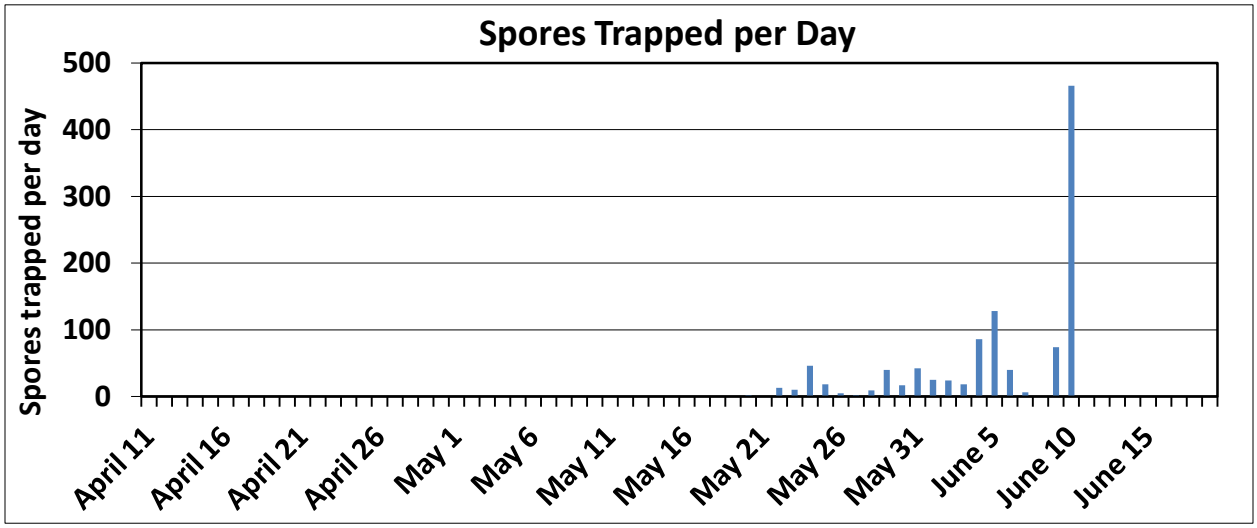
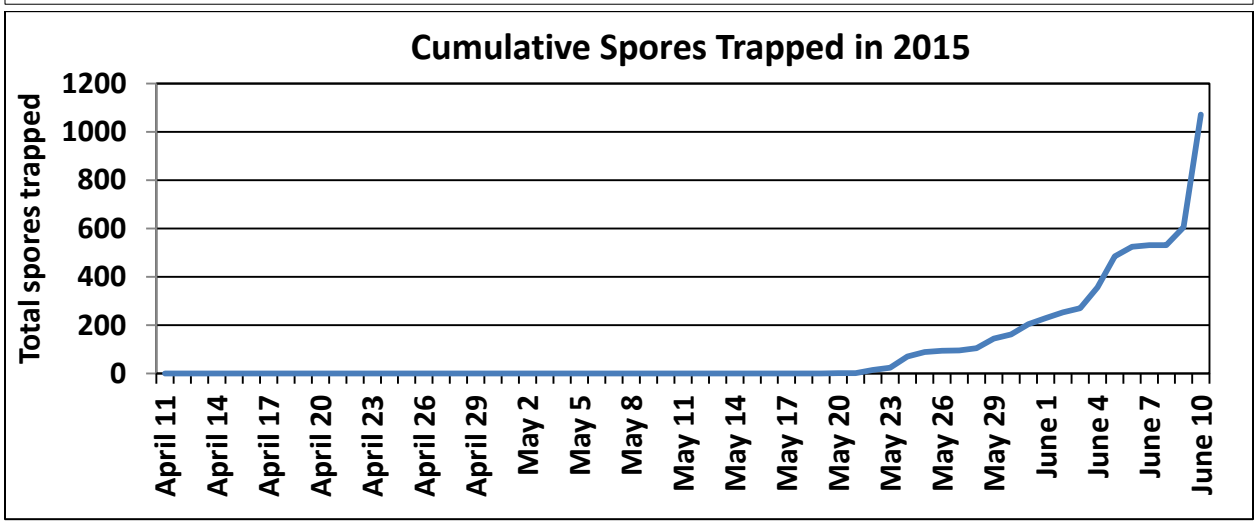
April 10 thru June 10 Ergot Spore Trapping

- In 2014, a spore trap was deployed in an established Kentucky bluegrass field at the Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center (COARC) between May 9th and the 4th of July. A total of 55 spores were detected between May 20th and June 19th.
- Twelve Kentucky bluegrass cultivars (KBG) were planted in the fall of 2014 at COARC (Table 1) and artificially infested with ergot sclerotia. A Burkard spore trap was deployed on April 10, 2015.
- **A total of 1,071 spores have been detected on spore traps between May 20th and June 10th. A sharp increase in ergot spores was observed between June 4th and June 10th, with 818 spores trapped during the week since the last Ergot Alert Newsletter.**





Suggestions for Ergot Management

- ***Trace amounts of honeydew and sclerotia have been observed in plots at COARC and in the border rows around the plots.*** No reports of honeydew or ergot infection have been received from growers in central Oregon.
- ***Infections that occur later in the season can result in the presence of honeydew at harvest, which can make swathing and combining more difficult.***
- The window for initial fungicide application (Feekes 10.51) for protection against ergot infection has passed for most KBG cultivars in plots at COARC. ***Fungicide applications for ergot are protective and not curative.***
- Single fungicide applications made during mid- to late-flowering may help reduce potential infection of later flowering heads/panicles (from airborne spores and/or spread of honeydew) but will not provide complete protection.
- ***It is important to monitor fields that had some level of infection in 2014 (honeydew and/or ergot sclerotia in the field or during clean-out). It is also important to monitor fields that are in proximity to previously established fields that had ergot in 2014.***
- *Late season scouting efforts can aid in the development of cleaning schedules and help to predict future ergot potential in perennial grass seed fields.*

- Please consult the PNW Plant Disease Management handbook for fungicide products available for ergot suppression in OR/WA grass seed crops or search the Pesticide Information Center Online. Links to the web resources are listed below:
  - *Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Management Handbook:* http://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/grass-seed-ergot
  - *Washington State Pest Management Resource Service Pesticide Information Center Online Databases:* http://cru66.cahe.wsu.edu/LabelTolerance.html

Phase I Survey Online!

Growers, consultants, field representatives, ag service providers, and grass seed company reps – please take a minute or two and fill-out this optional survey. The Ergot Team would like your participation in collecting some vital information regarding ergot management and impact on the grass seed industry. The survey is short (less than 5 minutes), simple and confidential. The combined results will help the E-Team tremendously in our efforts to find solutions for management of this fungal disease and tap into resources beyond the state level.

http://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_b3j5S4iNbU1Pfut

Application of a pesticide to a crop or site not on the label, or in a manner inconsistent with label directions, is a violation of pesticide law and may subject the applicator to civil penalties.

Table 1. Location, cultivar, and growth stage of Kentucky bluegrass cultivars at the KBG-5 ergot spore monitoring site in central Oregon.

County	Latitude/Longitude	Grass species	Cultivar	Feekes growth stage[1]
Jefferson, OR	44°40'46.75"N / 121°8'54.95"W	Kentucky Bluegrass	Bluechip	**~100% of tillers at 11**
Jefferson, OR	44°40'46.75"N / 121°8'54.95"W	Kentucky Bluegrass	Blue Ghost	**~100% of tillers at 11**
Jefferson, OR	44°40'46.75"N / 121°8'54.95"W	Kentucky Bluegrass	DB-1013	**~100% of tillers at 11**
Jefferson, OR	44°40'46.75"N / 121°8'54.95"W	Kentucky Bluegrass	Fielder	**~100% of tillers at 11**
Jefferson, OR	44°40'46.75"N / 121°8'54.95"W	Kentucky Bluegrass	Gateway	**~100% of tillers at 11**
Jefferson, OR	44°40'46.75"N / 121°8'54.95"W	Kentucky Bluegrass	Gladstone	**~100% of tillers at 11**
Jefferson, OR	44°40'46.75"N / 121°8'54.95"W	Kentucky Bluegrass	Jumpstart	**~100% of tillers at 11**
Jefferson, OR	44°40'46.75"N / 121°8'54.95"W	Kentucky Bluegrass	Midnight II	**~100% of tillers at 11**
Jefferson, OR	44°40'46.75"N / 121°8'54.95"W	Kentucky Bluegrass	Nuglade	**~100% of tillers at 11**
Jefferson, OR	44°40'46.75"N / 121°8'54.95"W	Kentucky Bluegrass	PST-K4-7	**~100% of tillers at 11**
Jefferson, OR	44°40'46.75"N / 121°8'54.95"W	Kentucky Bluegrass	Right	**~100% of tillers at 11**
Jefferson, OR	44°40'46.75"N / 121°8'54.95"W	Kentucky Bluegrass	Shamrock	**~100% of tillers at 11**

[1]Feekes 11 = anthesis complete/heading. **Ratings are current as of June 16, 2015.**

Cumulative Degree Days (Jan 1 thru June 15):

Air: 684

Soil (4" depth): 732

Cumulative growing degree days are calculated using data from the MRSO weather station in the AgriMet Cooperative Agricultural Weather Network (http://www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet/). A lower baseline of 50° F and an upper baseline of 77° F are used in the calculations for both air and soil calculations. Cumulative growing degree days were calculated starting January 1, 2015.

Please contact Jeremiah Dung, Plant Pathologist, with any question, comments or ergot observations at:
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