

Stripe Rust Forecast and Update, March 4, 2026

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A. Stripe rust is forecasted in the upper range of severe epidemics for the eastern Pacific Northwest

Wheat stripe rust is forecasted to be in the upper range of severe epidemic (40-60% yield losses on susceptible varieties) in the 2026 growing season for the eastern Pacific Northwest, based on the predication models using the weather data from November 2025 to February 2026. The models predict highly susceptible varieties to have **55.8%** yield loss with a standard deviation of 6.2%. This value is like the **56.7%** yield loss forecasted in January based only on the November-December weather data. According to these predictions, commercially grown varieties will likely have up to **40%** yield losses, or **8%** yield loss on average for commercially grown varieties without fungicide application.

B. Stripe rust is widespread, and the pathogen is actively producing spores in central Washington

On March 3, we were checking winter wheat fields in Whitman, Lincoln, Adams, Franklin, and Walla Walla counties and found stripe rust in all these counties except Whitman (including our experimental fields near Pullman). Rust incidence and severity were more in the south than the north, correlating to the temperature patterns. In Lincoln County, we found stripe rust in 7 out of 10 commercial fields. Most of rust pustules were in the dormant stage with few active pustules (**Figure 1**). In the Adams and Franklin counties, active stripe rust pustules producing spores (**Figure 2, Figure 3**) were found in every checked field (8 or 9 fields checked in each county). In our experimental field at the Lind station (Adams Co.), stripe rust reached 50% incidence (**Figure 4**). Stripe rust was more severe in our experimental field in Walla Walla, with incidence over 80% and rust reaching top leaves (**Figure 5**). This is the most widespread and severe stripe rust by this time of year in Washington since 2011.



Figure 1. Stripe rust observed in a commercial winter wheat field in Lincoln County, WA on March 3, 2026.



Figure 2. Stripe rust observed in a commercial winter wheat field in Adams County, WA on March 3, 2026.



Figure 3. Stripe rust observed in a commercial winter wheat field in Franklin County, WA on March 3, 2026.



Figure 4. Stripe rust in an experimental winter wheat field in Lind (Adams County, WA) on March 3, 2026.



Figure 5. Stripe rust in an experimental winter wheat field in Walla Walla (Walla Walla County, WA) on March 3, 2026.

C. Recommendations for managing stripe rust in the eastern Pacific Northwest

The field observations show the unusually early development of stripe rust, and the predictions indicate high potential yield losses in the 2026 wheat crop season for the eastern Pacific Northwest. Fungicide

application is recommended for the winter wheat fields planted with moderately resistant to susceptible varieties with stripe rust ratings 3 to 9 at the time of herbicide application, and a second application may be needed 20 to 30 days after the first application, which can be determined by whether active stripe rust appears in the field after the first application. As many resistant varieties (stripe rust ratings 1 and 2) have only high-temperature adult-plant (HTAP) resistance, which will not be effective until the weather gets warm and plants reach the middle jointing stage (Feekes 7), stripe rust can develop on these varieties. Therefore, any wheat fields should be checked for stripe rust. If active rust like those shown in the figures above, fungicide should be applied at the timing of herbicide application. Refer to my previous report “2026 First Stripe Rust Forecast for the Eastern Pacific Northwest” for stripe rust ratings of wheat varieties (<https://striperust.wsu.edu/2026/01/07/2026-first-stripe-rust-forecast-for-the-eastern-pacific-northwest/>).

For spring wheat, resistant varieties (stripe rust ratings 1 or 2) should be selected for planting. If for any reason varieties in the other categories (stripe rust ratings 3 to 9) are going to be planted, fungicide application will be likely needed at the time of herbicide application.

To select fungicides, please refer to the **Appendix Table** for information on active ingredients, application rate, control effect, effective duration, total limit per crop, and stage or date of application restriction.

D. Stripe rust in the country

In 2026, stripe rust was first reported in central **Washington** on January 15, Pendleton, **Oregon** (Umatilla County), on January 27, Davis, **California** (Yolo County) on February 9, and the Hill and McLennan counties, **Texas** on January 12. The observations of stripe rust in the Davis area of California were also unusually earlier than normal. The occurrence of stripe rust in Texas in January is an indication of severe epidemic in the southern Great Plains and potentially epidemics in the central and northern parts of the Great Plains.

Appendix Table

Fungicides for control of stripe rust and other foliar diseases on cereal crops						
Trade name	Active ingredient(s) (%)	Application rate (fl. oz/A)	Control effect ^a	Effective duration (days)	Total limit per crop (fl. oz/A)	Application restriction (no later than)
Absolute 500 SC	Tebuconazole 22.6, Trifloxystrobin 22.6	5.0 - 7.7	VG	35	32	35 dbh ^b
Aframe Plus	Azoxystrobin 13.5, Propiconazole 11.7	10.5 - 14	E	40	28	Feekes 10.5.4
Alto 100 SL	Cyproconazole 8.9	3.0 - 5.5	VG	30	5.5	30 dbh
Aproach SC	Picoxystrobin 22.5	6.0 - 12.0	VG	30	36	Feekes 10.5
Aproach Prima SC	Cyproconazole 7.17, Picoxystrobin 17.94	3.4 - 6.8	E	40	6.8	45 dbh
Aprovia Ace	Propiconazole 12.07, Benzovindiflupyr 7.24	9.45	E	40	18.9	Feekes 10.5.4
Avaris 2XS	Propiconazole 11.7, Azoxystrobin 7.0	10.5 - 14.0	E	40	56	30 dbh
Bumper 41.8 EC	Propiconazole 41.8	4	VG	30	8	Feekes 10.5
Caramba 0.75 SL	Metconazole 8.6	10.0 - 17.0	E	40	34	30 dbh
Custodia	Tebuconazole 18.3, Azoxystrobin 11.0	6.4 - 8.6	E	40	8.6	Feekes 10.5
Embrace	Tebuconazole 38.7	4	-	-	4	30 dbh
Equation 2.08 SC	Azoxystrobin 22.8	4.0 - 12.0	VG	30	24	Feekes 10.5.4
Evito 480 SC	Fluoxastrobin 40.3	2.0 - 4.0	VG	20	8	Feekes 10.5 and 40 dbh
Fitness	Propiconazole 41.8	4	VG	30	8	Feekes 10.5
Folicur 3.6 F	Tebuconazole 38.7	4	E	30	4	30 dbh
Fortix	Fluoxastrobin 14.84, Flutriafol 19.80	2-3	VG	30	12	Feekes 10.5
Headline SC	Pyraclostrobin 23.6	9	VG	20	18	Feekes 10.5
Lucento	Bixafen 15.55, Flutriafol 26.47	2-3	E	30	6	30 dbh
Miravis Ace	Pydiflumetofen 13.7, Propiconazole 11.4	13.7	E	30	27.4	Feekes 10.5.4
Monsoon	Tebuconazole 38.7	4	-	-	4	30 dbh
Muscle 3.6 F	Tebuconazole 38.7	4	E	30	4	30 dbh
Nexicor EC	Propiconazole 11.73, Fluxapyroxad 2.81, Pyraclostrobin 18.76	13	E	40	26	Feekes 10.5
Onset 3.6 L	Tebuconazole 38.7	4	-	-	4	30 dbh
Orius 3.6 F	Tebuconazole 38.7	4	-	-	4	30 dbh
Preemptor	Fluoxastrobin 14.84, Flutriafol 19.30	2-3	G	20	12	Feekes 10.5
Priaxor 500 SC	Fluxapyroxad 14.3, Pyraclostrobin 28.6	8	VG	30	16	Feekes 10.5
Proline 480 SC	Prothioconazole 41.0	4.3 - 5.0	VG	30	9.37	30 dbh
Propiconazole E-AG 41.8 EC	Propiconazole 41.8	4	-	-	8	Feekes 10.5
PropiMax 3.6 EC	Propiconazole 41.8	4	-	-	8	Feekes 10.5
Prosaro 421 SC	Prothioconazole 19.0, Tebuconazole 19.0	6.5 - 8.2	E	30	8.2	30 dbh
Quadris 2.08 SC	Azoxystrobin 22.9	4.0 - 12.0	E	30	24	45 dbh
Quilt 200 SC	Propiconazole 11.7, Azoxystrobin 7.0	10.5 - 14.0	E	40	28	Feekes 10.5
Quilt Xcel 2.2 SE	Propiconazole 11.7, Azoxystrobin 13.5	10.5 - 14.0	E	40	28	Feekes 10.5
Stratego 250 EC	Prothioconazole 11.4, Trifloxystrobin 11.4	10	VG	30	20	Feekes 10.5 and 35 dbh
Stratego YLD	Prothioconazole 10.8, Trifloxystrobin 32.3	4	VG	30	8	Feekes 10.5 and 35 dbh
Tebucon 3.6 F	Tebuconazole 38.7	4	-	-	4	30 dbh
Tebustar 3.6 F	Tebuconazole 38.7	4	-	-	4	30 dbh
Tebuzol 3.6 F	Tebuconazole 38.7	4	-	-	4	30 dbh
Tegrol	Tebuconazole 38.7	4	-	-	4	30 dbh
Tilt 3.6 EC	Propiconazole 41.8	4	VG	30	8	Feekes 10.5
Toledo 3.6 F	Tebuconazole 38.7	4	-	-	4	30 dbh
Topguard	Flutriafol 11.8	10.0 - 14.0	E	30	28	30 dbh
Topguard EQ	Azoxystrobin 25.30, Flutriafol 18.63	3-4	E	30	9	30 dbh
Trivapro	Benzovindiflupyr 2.9, Azoxystrobin 10.5, Propiconazole 11.9	9.4 - 13.7	E	40	27.4	10.5.4
Twinline 1.75 EC	Metconazole 7.4, Pyraclostrobin 12.0	7.0 - 9.0	E	40	18	Feekes 10.5
Vertisan	Penthiopyrad 20.6	24	E	40	48	Feekes 10.5.1
Viathon 5.1 SC	Tebuconazole 3.3, Potassium phosphite 49.0	2.0 pt	E	30	16.5	30 dbh
Zolera FX	Fluoxastrobin 17.76, Tetraconazole 17.76	3-5	VG	30	5	Feekes 10.5

^a E = excellent, G = good, VG = very good, and - = no information from our tests.

^b dbh = days before harvest.