

Cereal Disease Guide 2025

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2024 in review

Disease pressure on cereal crops during 2024 ranged from moderate to high, driven by a significant carryover of inoculum from 2023. Despite below average rainfall for the majority of the season, grain yield losses of 10-20% were observed, particularly in susceptible varieties grown under high yield potential conditions with stored moisture.

The most prevalent and impactful diseases in Victoria were stripe rust and *Septoria tritici* blotch (STB) in wheat, along with net and spot forms of net blotch in barley. Avoiding highly susceptible varieties proved to be an effective strategy, even during drier seasons. Fungicide resistance was widespread during 2024, with net form net blotch (NFNB) in barley showing particularly high levels of resistance.

2025 cereal disease management

The relatively dry conditions during 2024 and over the summer have reduced the potential for disease carryover into 2025. However, despite this lower risk, proactive disease management will still be essential during 2025. The widespread cultivation of susceptible varieties will increase disease risk, and if conditions become favourable, yield losses due to disease can be expected. Soil-borne diseases are a risk to cereals. Testing prior to sowing (PREDICTA B®) allows paddocks at risk to be identified and less susceptible crop varieties sown.

Cereal rusts

Despite low rust risk due to reduced inoculum carry over on volunteer cereals, it will still be important during 2025 to:

- remove volunteer cereals before the end of March
- avoid susceptible varieties
- use fungicides on seed or fertiliser for early control
- monitor crops with a plan for timely fungicide use.

Fungicide resistance

Resistance to fungicides is an increasing threat to crops. Five strategies can be adopted to slow the development of resistance in pathogen populations and extend the longevity of the limited range of fungicides available:

1. **Avoid susceptible crop varieties.**
2. **Rotate crops.**
3. **Use non-chemical methods to reduce disease pressure.**
4. **Spray only if necessary and apply strategically.**
5. **Rotate and mix fungicides/modes of action.**

For more information visit: www.afren.com.au

Wheat foliar diseases

Stripe rust: The risk will be low during 2025. However, avoiding susceptible varieties remains an effective strategy to minimise yield losses, even in seasons with low risk. Widespread use of up-front fungicides (e.g. flutriafol on fertiliser) will provide area wide suppression and assist with later in-crop control, especially where varieties do not have adequate resistance. Use the free tablet/mobile-based app “StripeRustWM” for support with fungicide decisions.

Septoria tritici blotch (STB): STB will require proactive management during 2025. AgVic research during 2024 showed grain yield losses of ~20% in the Wimmera. However, yield losses decreased when sowing was delayed from April to May. Monitoring symptoms is critical for STB control. To maximise efficacy, apply fungicides after the appearance of first symptoms. Resistance to Group 11 fungicides (Quinone outside inhibitors (QoIs)) was detected in Victoria in 2024 so ensure that fungicide resistance management is used.

Powdery mildew: Powdery mildew was less common during 2024. However, avoiding susceptible cultivars is still the best control. If fungicides are required, they should be applied before canopy closure noting that resistance to Group 11 (QoIs) and resistance/ partial resistance to Group 3 (DMIs) fungicides is common. The APVMA has recently extended the permit of fungicides from Groups 13 and U8 until May 2027 for powdery mildew control in wheat. Growers are advised to follow label instructions to ensure proper application and effective disease management.

Barley foliar diseases

Stubble-borne diseases, including net form net blotch (NFNB) and spot form net blotch (SFNB) were common in barley crops during 2024. Even in a drier season, these diseases caused grain yield loss of ~13% in susceptible varieties. Reduced efficacy of fungicides due to resistance to Group 7 (SDHI) and partial resistance to Group 3 (DMI) fungicides did not provide adequate control of NFNB, causing notable yield losses, especially in susceptible varieties. Fungicide resistant strains of NFNB increased in frequency during 2024 which means that fungicides will need to be used according to fungicide resistance management guidelines.

Barley rusts will be carried over by the green bridge and may become severe if the season is favourable. Barley grass stripe rust (BGYR) was observed in multiple crops during 2024 and may re-emerge in 2025.

Wheat Disease Reactions 2025

Variety	Rust			Septoria <i>tritici</i>	Yellow leaf spot	Powdery mildew	Crown rot	Cereal cyst nematode	Root lesion nematode (<i>Pratylenchus</i>)		Quality (Victoria)
	Stem	Stripe	Leaf						<i>P. neglectus</i>	<i>P. thornei</i>	
Anapurna	MSS	RMR	MS	MRMS	MRMS	RMR	SVS	MRMS	MS	Sp	Feed
Ascot	MRMS	MSS	RMR	S	MRMS	S*	S	MR	S	S	APW
Ballista	MR	MSS	S	SVS	MS	SVS*	S	MRMS	S	MRMS	AH
BigRed	S	RMR	MRMS	MR	MR	RMR	MSS	S	MRMS	MS	Feed
Brumby	MR	MS	SVS	S	MRMS	MSS	S	MRMS	MRMS	MS	APW
Calibre	MR	S	S	S	MRMS	MSS	S	MRMS	S	MSS	AH
Catapult	MR	S	S	MSS	MRMS	S*	MSS	R	S	MS	AH
Chief CL Plus	MR	SVS	MR	S	MRMS	SVS*	MSS	MS	MRMS	MSS	APW
Denison	MS	S	S	MSS	MRMS	S*	MSS	MS	S	S	APW
DS Bennett	MS	S	SVS	MSS	MRMS	R	VS	S	S	S	ASW
DS Pascal	MSS	MRMS	MRMS	MSS	MS	RMR	S*	S	S	S	APW
Dozer CL Plus	MS	S	S	S	MRMS	S	S	MS	MRMS	S	APW
EG Titanium	MS	MR	MS	MSS	MSS	S*	MSS	R	MSS	MSS	AH
Genie	MRMS	MSS	S	S	MRMSp	SVS	MSp	MSSp	MSp	MRMS	AH
Hammer CL Plus	MR	MS	S	MSS	MRMS	S*	MSS	MRMS	MSS	S	AH
Illabo	MR	MRMS	S	MSS	MS	RMR	S	MRMS	MSS	MSS	AH
Kingston	S	MSS	S	S	MSS	S*	S	R	S	MR	AH
Leverage	MR	MRMS	RMR	S	MRMS	SVS	S	MS	S	MS	AH
LRPB Bale	MRMS	MRMS	MSS	MSS	SVS	MRMS	S	R	S	S	APW
LRPB Kittyhawk	MRMS	MR	MR	MRMS	MRMS	MS	SVS	S	S	S	AH
LRPB Major	MRMS	MRMS	MR	MSS	MS	MSS	MSS	MRMS	S	MSS	AH
LRPB Matador	MS	MS	MSS	S	MRMS	MSS	S	MSp	S	MS	AH
Patron	RMR	MRMS	RMR	MRMS	MRMS	S	SVS	S	MRMS	MR	ADR
Razor CL Plus	MRMS	MRMS	S	SVS	MSS	MSS	S	MR	S	MS	ASW
Reilly	MRMS	MS	MSS	S	S	MSS	S	R	MS	MSS	AH
RGT Accroc	MRMS	MRMS	S	MS	MRMS	MRMS	SVS	S	MS	MSS	Feed
RGT Calabro	MS	MRMS	MS	MRMS	MR	RMR	SVS	S	S	MS	Feed
RGT Cesario	RMR	MRMS	RMR	MRMS	MR	RMR	VS	MSSp	MRMS	MSS	Feed
RGT Waugh	MS	MR	S	MRMS#	MRMS	RMR	S	MS	MSS	MSS	Feed
RGT Zanzibar	VS	RMR	SVS	MSS	MS	RMR	S	MSS	S	MSp	Feed
RGT Ponsford	RMR	MS	MR	MSS	MS	MSS	MSS	MRMS	MSS	S	Pending
RockStar	MRMS	S	S	S	MRMS	SVS	S	MSS	MRMS	MS	AH
Scepter	MRMS	S	MSS	S	MRMS	SVS*	MSS	MRMS	S	MSS	AH
Severn	MRMS	MR	MR	MSS	MRMS	RMR	S	MSSp	S	MRMS	Feed
Shotgun	MRMS	MSS	MSS	Sp	MRMS	S	MSp	Rp	MSp	MRMS	AH
Soaker	MRMS	S	MS	S	MRMS	S	MSp	MRMSp	S	S	APW
Stockade	MS	MR	MR	MS	MRMS	SVS*	S	MRMS	S	MSS	APW
Sunblade CL Plus	MS	MRMS	MSS	S	MSS	S*	S	MSS	MSS	MRMS	AH
Sunmaster	MS	MRMS	RMR	S	MSS	S	MSS	MSS	MRMS	MS	APH
Tomahawk CL Plus	MR	S	S	S	MRMS	SVS	MSS	MRMS	S	MS	APW
Valiant CL Plus	MRMS	S	S	MSS	MRMS	VS*	MSS	MSSp	S	Sp	AH
Vixen	MRMS	SVS	SVS	S	MRMS	SVS*	S	MSS	MRMS	MS	AH
Willaura	MR	S	MRMS	S	MS	SVS*	S	MS	MSS	MRMS	AH

Varieties marked may be more susceptible if more virulent strains are present. p These ratings are provisional - treat with caution. / Variety reacts differently to different strains.

R = Resistant, RMR = Resistant to moderately resistant, MR = Moderately resistant, MRMS = Moderately resistant to moderately susceptible, MS = Moderately susceptible, MSS = Moderately susceptible to susceptible
S = Susceptible, SVS = Susceptible to very susceptible, VS = Very susceptible. ^ Data from 2024 testing is pending. *Indicates historic data for a variety and/or disease that has not been updated in at least 12 months.

Oat Disease Reactions 2025

Variety	Rust		CCN Resistance	Bacterial blight	Red leather leaf ^A	Barley yellow dwarf virus	Septoria avenae
	Stem	Leaf					
Archer	MS	R	VS	MSS	SVSp	MSS	MSS
Bannister	S	MRMS	MRMS	S	MSS-SVS	MSS	MSS
Bilby	S	S	VS	SVS	MS	S*	S
Goldie	S	R	MR	MSS	SVS	MS	MSS
Kingbale	S	S	R	MSS	Sp	MS	MS
Koala	MS	R	R	S	S	MSS	MSS
Kowari	S	SVS	S	S	S	S*	S
Kultarr	SVS	R	MRMS	MSS	Sp	MSS	MS
Mulgara	S*	MR*	R*	MSS	SVS	MSS*	S/MS
Wallaby	SVS	R	MR	MSS	SVSp	MSS	MSS
Williams	MSS	MRMS*	VS	MSS	MS	MSS*	MSS
Wintaroo	S*	S*	R	MSS	S	MS*	MS#
Yallara	S	MRMS	R	S	SVS	MSS	MSS

Varieties marked may be more susceptible if alternative strains are present. p These ratings are provisional - treat with caution.

/ Variety reacts differently to different strains. ^A Data from 2024 testing is pending.

*Indicates historic data for a variety and/or disease that has not been updated in at least 12 months.

Barley Disease Reactions 2025

Variety	Scald	Spot form of net blotch ^A	Net form of net blotch ^A	Powdery mildew ^A	Leaf rust ^A	Cereal cyst nematode	Root lesion nematode (<i>Pratylenchus</i>)	
							<i>P. neglectus</i>	<i>P. thornei</i>
Malting barley								
Bottler	SVS	MSS	MR	RMR	MRMS	-	MS	RMR
Commodus CL	SVS	MSS	MSS	MSS	S	R	MRMS	MRMS
Compass	SVS	MS	MS	S	SVS	R	MRMS	MR
Kiwi	SVS	MSS	MRMS#	RMR	MSS	S	MRMS	RMR
LaTrobe	SVS	S	MS	MSS	S	R	MRMS	MRMS
Leabrook	SVS	MS	MS#	S	SVS	RMR	MRMS	RMR
Maximus CL	SVS	MS	MRMS	S	S	R	MRMS	MRMS
Minotaur	VS	S	MRMS	S	VS	R	MRMS	MRMS
RGT Planet	SVS	SVS	SVS	RMR	MRMS	R	MRMS	MR
Barley lines undergoing malt evaluation								
Beast	SVS	MS	MRMS	S	S	MR	MRMS	MRMS
Cyclops	S	MS	MRMS	SVS	SVS	S	MRMS	MRMS
Laperouse	SVS	MRMS	MRMS#	MSS	SVS	S	MRMS	MR
Neo CL	S	MR	MSp	RMRp	Sp	R	MR	MRMS
Titan AX	VS	MS	MS	MSS	SVS	MRp	MR	MR
Yeti	VS	MS	MR#	S	SVS	RMR	MR	MR
Feed barley								
Combat	S	RMR	MRMS#	MS	S	MR	MRMS	MS
Fandaga	SVS	S	MRMS	R	MSS	R	MR	MR
Fathom	S	RMR	MSS	MRMS	MS	R	MRMS	MR

Varieties marked may be more susceptible if alternative strains are present. p These ratings are provisional - treat with caution.

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Download the most up to date ratings here



Root and crown diseases of cereals

With a lack of in-crop control options for soil-borne diseases, a soil test (PREDICTA B®) is recommended before sowing to identify paddocks at risk. Most cereal root (take-all, and cereal cyst and root lesion nematode) and crown diseases (crown rot) can be controlled with a one or 2-year break from susceptible hosts. Break crops are to be free of grass weeds.

Viruses and insects

Barley yellow dwarf viruses can cause significant yield losses in cereals. Any weeds and volunteer hosts, which may act as virus and/or aphid reservoirs, should be removed prior to sowing to prevent virus and insect build up. During the season, monitor crops for aphid activity and virus symptoms, especially in the early growth stages, with a plan for timely insecticide application, if required.

Bunt and smut

Seed treatments provide cheap and effective control of bunt and smut diseases and should be applied every year with good coverage. These diseases can develop rapidly and result in large yield losses and unsaleable grain. Loose smut was common in some barley varieties during 2024. Infected seed should not be used. Fertiliser treatments do not control bunt and smuts.

Further Information

Detailed information on cereal diseases can be obtained online from:

- [Agriculture Victoria Information Notes](#)
- Field Crop Diseases Victoria: extensionaus.com.au/FCDVic
- GRDC National Variety Trials: www.NVTOnline.com.au
- Fungicide Resistance: www.afren.com.au

Services available from Agriculture Victoria

Field Crops Pathology, Horsham SmartFarm
110 Natimuk Rd, Horsham 3400.
Tel 03 5450 8301
or the Customer Service Centre 136 186

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Triticale Disease Reactions 2025#

Variety	CCN	Stem rust	Stripe rust	Leaf rust	Yellow leaf spot	Septoria tritici
Cartwheel	R	R	RMR	R	MR	RMR
Fusion	R	R	RMR	R	MS	RMR
Joey	MS	S	MR	RMR	MR	RMR
KM10	S	R	MR	MR/S	MR	RMR
Kokoda	MR	R	RMR	RMR	MR	RMR
Razoo	-	MRMSp	MR	RMRp	MRp	RMRp
Wonambi	MS	R	MRMS	R	MR	RMR
Woomera	MS	MS	MR	RMR	MR	RMR

#Ratings presented for Triticale varieties are more than 12 months old. Treat with caution.

Interpreting Resistance Classifications

Below is an explanation of the resistance ratings used in this guide for **foliar diseases**, and how they should be interpreted.

- R** Resistant, the disease will not multiply or cause any damage on this variety.
- MR** Moderately Resistant, the disease may be visible and will multiply slightly, but will not cause significant loss.
- MS** Moderately Susceptible, the disease may cause losses up to 15% or more in very severe cases.
- S** Susceptible, the disease can be severe on this variety and losses of 15-50% can occur.
- VS** Very Susceptible, this variety should not be grown in areas where a disease is likely to be a problem. Losses greater than 50% are possible, and the build-up of inoculum will create problems for other growers.

Below is an explanation of the resistance ratings used in this guide for **nematodes**, and how they should be interpreted.

- R** Resistant, nematode numbers will decrease when this variety is grown.
- MR** Moderately Resistant, nematode numbers will slightly decrease when this variety is grown.
- MS** Moderately Susceptible, nematode numbers will slightly increase when this variety is grown.
- S** Susceptible, nematode numbers will increase greatly in the presence of this variety.
- VS** Very Susceptible, a large increase in nematode numbers can occur when this variety is grown and this will cause problems to a following intolerant crop.

These classifications are only a guide, and yield losses will depend on the environment and seasonal conditions.

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