

Alabama Wheat and Feed Grains Committee

Survey for Potential Vectors of Brome Mosaic Virus on Wheat in Alabama.

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Brome mosaic virus (BMV) was identified from wheat in Autauga, Baldwin, Dallas, Dekalb, Elmore, Escambia, Henry, Limestone, and Mobile counties indicating it was widespread throughout the wheat growing areas of Alabama. Leaves from weeds growing in the vicinity of the wheat fields were collected and only Evening Primrose tested positive for BMV. Nematodes were extracted from soil samples collected from wheat fields and no dagger nematodes were detected. Even though other plant parasitic nematodes were detected in all samples, none were known to transmit virus or be problems on wheat. Flea beetles were the most frequently collected insect aside from aphids in wheat fields throughout the state. In greenhouse feeding studies, the flea beetles were able to transmit BMV to healthy wheat plants indicating the vector behavior of this insect. This study indicated that BMV is widely distributed in throughout the state. The primary vector of BMV in Alabama appears to be flea beetles and not nematodes and evening primrose may be a potential reservoir for the virus.