



Above: Whitlow Farm, Spring Wheat Handplant.

USDA Cereal Rust Program

Located in Greenhouse 114-1

Pullman, Washington

Abigail Houser

Summer, 2013



-Above shows me learning how to use a hand boom sprayer.
-Below shows me having to wear my rubber boots in the fields due to a wet day, but a bit of rain does not stop work from needing to be done!

USDA Cereal Disease Greenhouse:

The USDA Cereal Rust program is mainly located in Greenhouse 114-1, which is part of WSU's research Greenhouses on the East side of Campus. The program is led by Dr. Xianming Chen, who does most of his work in the lab. The Greenhouse and field locations is where a large part of the research is being done. Some of the research being done includes yield loss fungicide trials, fungicide trials, and single plot trials which collect data to show how little or how much strip rust is prevalent on a certain wheat variety. This research is done on a mix of Spring and winter wheat.



Left: A perfect example of stripe Rust.
Right: We fixed and wrote many stakes while doing my internship. This one shows Nursery 1326, plant number 51.



Responsibilities throughout my internship:

- ❖ Assisting in spraying /mixing herbicides and fungicides.
- ❖ Hand weeding and rogueing fields for volunteer wheat.
- ❖ Cleaning the greenhouse: washing pots, sweeping, sanitizing
 - ❖ Transplanting of wheat seedlings.
- ❖ Traveling to other farm locations in Lind, Walla Walla, and Mt. Vernon to read plots and weed between rows.
 - ❖ Punching in data from paper into the I-Pad computers.
 - ❖ Aided in white-washing the greenhouse.
 - ❖ Rewriting and fixing stakes in the fields.
 - ❖ Cleaning seed packets for next years harvest.
 - ❖ Preparing seed bags and tags for harvest.
- ❖ Helping with the general maintenance of the projects equipment such as tractors, sprayers, and greenhouse equipment.

Experiences to have forever:

Being able to experience my internship at the USDA Cereal Rust program has given me, and showed me how much effort and detail goes into research being done in plant pathology for rust in Wheat. As a Fruit and Vegetable major, going into the project I knew it would be somewhat different than what I expected to gain from an internship. Overall I gained many experiences and lifelong working abilities I can use in my future career. Learning how to spray, mix, and apply herbicides will be a unique quality in a worker I believe will be helpful to me in finding a job. In general, the experience has increased the professional abilities I had in a working environment. Gaining communication skills, a good work ethic, and all of the new skills I have learned such as working with power tools safely or being able to drive a tractor. All of these experiences have helped me become a more well rounded and experienced individual who is ready to go into the working world and find a job with fruits and vegetables.

-On the right I am learning to use power tools while helping fix a wood panel on the ground.
-On the left I am outside helping punch in data at our Lind, WA location.

