



Leaf spotting disease - induced losses in wheat

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Leaf spotting diseases caused by *Drechslera tritici-repentis* (tan spot), *Stagonospora nodorum* (stagonospora nodorum blotch) and *Septoria tritici* (septoria leaf blotch) are the most serious foliar fungal diseases of wheat in Lithuania. Studies were carried out at the Lithuanian Institute of Agriculture in 2003 and 2004 to investigate grain yield losses attributable to the attack by these diseases in three spring wheat cultivars. Different level of leaf spotting disease severity was manipulated with foliar application of fungicides. The results indicate that the infection of tan spot, stagonospora nodorum blotch and septoria leaf blotch on top leaves is a good indicator of yield loss. Estimates of rates of yield losses should be a useful tool for making disease management decisions.