

# ALL REGIONS

## KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR EYE SPOT

*Dry brown areas may be observed within or across severely infected fields.*

Please be on the look out for eye spot in the midlands and other high-lying areas of the industry this month, particularly if conditions have been cool and wet. Eye spot is generally considered minor and has been in our industry since the 1920s. Serious losses (up to 33%) have occurred periodically in other countries when conditions have favoured widespread and severe infections in susceptible varieties, but such losses have not been experienced in SA previously.

## HOW TO SPOT EYE SPOT

After over 20 years of being largely absent in our industry, severe symptoms were observed in some fields of N61 near New Hanover and Bruyns Hill in May 2020. The cool wet weather in early and mid-April would have favoured development but the severity of the symptoms observed indicates that N61 is susceptible. Note that eye spot is spread by wind and rain / irrigation. It is not spread in seedcane. The disease is caused by a fungus and fungicide trials are planned this year if suitable fields are available. The Biosecurity teams will check for symptoms in all varieties.

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

In the early stages of infection and when infections are mild, reddish-brown lesions with yellow margins develop on the leaf blade.



Yellow runners extend upwards from the lesions

Reddish-brown spots may develop in older runners



In severe cases, these symptoms may cover much of the leaf blade and cause drying and curling of the leaf tips.

