

Stem rust

Stem rust

Summary	Stem rust (SR) occurs throughout NZ, caused by the fungus <i>Puccinia graminis</i> , mainly in warm, dry conditions in summer and autumn.
Species affected	Ryegrass, tall fescue.
Identification	SR produces brick-red powdery spots (or pustules) on leaves and stems. These are often fringed by the papery remnants of the leaf epidermis.
Spread	The pustules produce brick-red spores that are carried by wind or rain to other plants. These germinate to produce new pustules
Prevention and management	<p>Use resistant ryegrass where SR occurs. To avoid SR, graze pastures at the correct time; do not allow them to get too long. The application of N fertiliser may help prevent SR.</p> <p>If rust is present, hard graze to remove infected pasture and apply N if possible. New growth should show little rust. Fungicides are uneconomic.</p>



Stem rust on a ryegrass stem.