Copper deficiency delays or reduces starch formation during grain filling, causing the accumulation of soluble carbohydrates which makes the crop susceptible to stem and head diseases like melanosis.

INCREASING MELANOSIS (right) is associated with increasing severity of Cu deficiency.

Summary

Our studies in Alberta indicate a significant area, estimated to exceed 3 million acres, in wheat growing regions may be yield-limited because of Cu deficiency. It's clear that low or deficient levels of Cu predispose wheat to yield-reducing infectious diseases like take-all, ergot infection and melanosis and to a range of other disorders from seedling to crop maturity. Such yield losses and disease problems can be dramatic, but are easily minimized or eliminated with small applications of foliar Cu (0.25 lb/A) or larger amounts of soil applied Cu (10 lb/A). ■

Nutrient Management Conference Announced for May 16-18, 1994

PLANS for a 1994 conference entitled "Nutrient Management on Highly Productive Soils" have been announced by the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI) and the Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR), co-organizing groups. The Conference is scheduled for May 16-18, 1994 at the Atlanta Airport Hilton Hotel, Atlanta, GA.

The program will feature a range of interesting topics including: the importance of maintaining soil fertility, fertilizer recommendations and spatial variability, site-specific nutrient management, individualized nutrient management recommendations, the roles of fertilizer placement in improving productivity, economic and environmental impacts of intensive cropping systems, outline of the U.S. Agricultural Pollution Prevention Plan and a discussion of regulatory effects on fertility use.

The Conference is attracting co-sponsorship from both private and governmental sectors. A broad spectrum of participants is expected, ranging from agricultural producers to fertilizer and agricultural chemicals dealers, fertilizer and agricultural industry representatives, crop management consultants, state and federal regulatory agency personnel, federal service agency personnel, researchers, Extension workers and journalists. A proceedings of the Conference papers will be available at the time of the meeting.

For more information on the Conference program, registration cost and housing, contact the Potash & Phosphate Institute, 2805 Claflin Rd., Suite 200, Manhattan, KS 66502. Phone: (913) 776-0273; fax: (913) 776-8347. ■