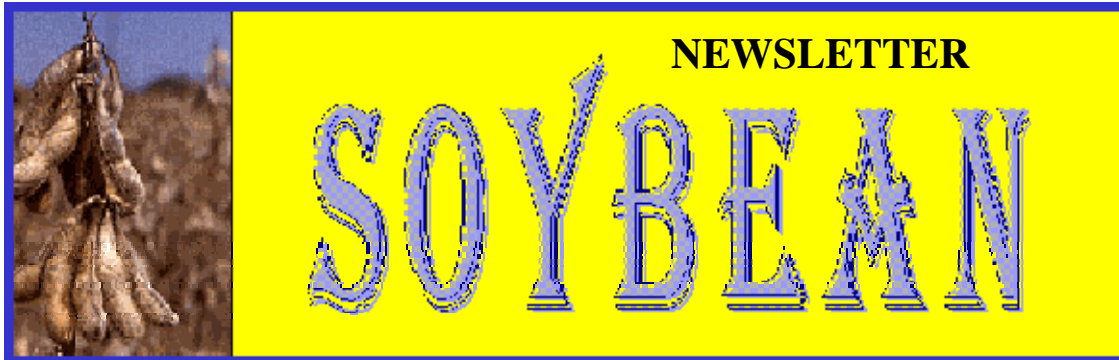




The University of Georgia
Cooperative Extension Service
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences



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<http://www.griffin.uga.edu/caes/soybeans>

DRY WEATHER BRINGS ADJUSTMENTS TO SOYBEAN RUST MANAGEMENT

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DRY WEATHER BRINGS ADJUSTMENTS TO SOYBEAN RUST MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS (*Kemerait, Jost, Sconyers*)

As of 17 July, 2006, we know the following about the current status of Asian soybean rust in Georgia:

1. Soybean rust is known to be infecting at least two patches of kudzu in the state (though certainly there are more). These patches are located in the city of Colquitt, Miller County, and in Quitman, Brooks County.
2. Spores (fungal seeds) that *appear* similar to those of the Asian soybean rust fungus were detected in spore traps from the Sunbelt Expo in Colquitt County and at the Southeast Georgia Research and Education Center near Midville in Burke County. **NOTE: NO** actual soybean rust DISEASE has been found at either location to date!
3. One leaf out of 100 that were collected from the sentinel plots (R4-R5 growth stages) at the Attapulgus REC in Decatur County on 3 July 2006 were infected with rust. A subsequent sample collected from Attapulgus on 10 July did not find any rust on the new collection of leaves.
4. Very hot and dry weather, such as we are now experiencing, is unfavorable for spread of Asian soybean rust.

Our interpretation:

Because of finds of rust in sentinel plots in Baldwin County, Alabama and in Attapulgus, Georgia, we have released the recommendation that soybean producers in the southwestern portion of Georgia begin fungicide applications as their crop enters the reproductive/bloom

growth stages. We have also recommended that growers elsewhere in the state make preparations to spray at some point in the future as rust is found to move towards their region.

NEW RECOMMENDATIONS (16 July 2006)

Although rust is active in southwest Georgia, the extremely hot and dry conditions are very unfavorable for spread of the disease. Unless their crop is under irrigation, soybean growers in the southwest corner of the Georgia likely do not need to begin fungicide applications on their crop until it reaches reproductive growth AND we begin to get some rainfall. Once it begins to rain again, the soybean crop will need to be protected with fungicides until it reaches the R6, mature seed, growth stage. If a grower is able to irrigate his crop, he should recognize that the irrigation will enable soybean rust to survive better in his field and earlier fungicide applications may be warranted.

Please refer any questions that you may have to your county agent.

CROP SITUATION (Jost) While many soybeans in the state are already under severe moisture stress due to dry conditions, we are rapidly approaching a critical time in the development of the crop at which continued moisture stress will severely affect yields. At this time maturity group V and VI beans are in full bloom, and maturity group VII and VIIIs are approaching first bloom. For the coastal plain area the critical moisture period for group Vs is the last week of July through the first of September. This critical period is shifted approximately ten days later for each increase in maturity group.

Basically what this critical time relates to is beginning pod set through pod fill. If soybeans are planted on irrigated acres, this is the time to turn on the water. On dryland acres rain is an absolute necessity during this period.

At this time lack of rain poses a much bigger threat to the crop than does rust.

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