

INSIDE GRUNDY COUNTY
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Even though we have yet to plant any soybeans, I would like to review what is being done to monitor the potential spread of Asian soybean rust spores into Iowa.

Asian soybean rust has been in the news quite a bit since its detection and identification in the southern United States last November. It has been a topic of discussion throughout the winter months and you have probably heard some radio ads talking about it as well. Since this is a new disease in the U.S., nobody knows exactly what to expect. We are fortunate to have one of the premiere experts on the disease on staff at Iowa State University, X.B. Yang, Professor of Plant Pathology. He has developed a model to predict the possible spread of spores. There is so much information to cover that I thought I would focus this article on what is being done to keep you informed of the movement of Asian soybean rust.

What is Iowa's response to the potential threat? The state of Iowa has prepared the Iowa Soybean Rust Fast Track System to keep growers and other concerned individuals informed of the progress of any soybean rust into the state of Iowa. This system ensures that soybean plant samples suspected of being infected with the fungus causing Asian soybean rust are quickly detected, moved into the diagnosis process and confirmed as soon as possible. Here is how it will work. If you find what appears to be Asian soybean rust, go to the soybean rust website: www.soybeanrust.info to get a list of first detectors (made up of crop consultants and agronomists) nearest you by entering your zip code. If the first detector believes it may be soybean rust, they will contact a triage team member (made up of ISU Extension staff). The triage team member will determine if the sample needs to be sent in.

The Iowa Fast Track System was developed to increase the speed and accuracy of diagnosing soybean rust. The process is simple. Iowa producers submit rust suspicious samples to an Iowa First Detector who will then examine the samples. If warranted, the samples will be submitted to an Iowa Triage Team member made up of ISU Extension staff who will alert the ISU Plant Diagnostic Clinic that suspect samples are being submitted. If the ISU Plant Disease Clinic determines the submitted samples may have symptoms of Asian soybean rust, the samples will be sent to the National Plant Diagnostic Network regional lab in Beltsville, Maryland, for confirmation of the presence of the disease. There is no charge for samples submitted by Iowa producers using the Iowa Soybean Rust Fast Track System.

Also, to watch for movement of the disease, sentinel plots have been planted in each state, and they will be monitored to determine/predict spread of the disease. For more information on soybean rust, first detectors and triage members, check out the website: www.soybeanrust.info or contact the Grundy office of ISU Extension at 319-824-6979