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Covering the Iowa counties of Cedar, Clinton, Des Moines, Henry, Jackson, Louisa, Muscatine, and Scott

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SOYBEAN

White Mold

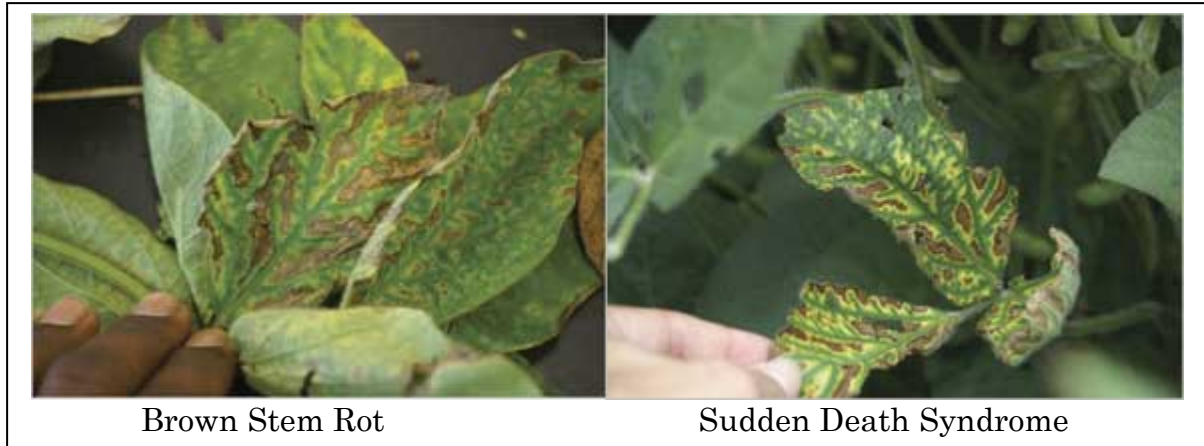


White mold is showing up in the northern part of the territory I cover. While white mold has first become evident this year during the last two weeks, the infections took place shortly after the beginning of flowering in late June. The infection itself is no longer spreading, but the evidence of the infection gives the appearance of the disease spreading as more plants show the symptoms of the disease.

The availability of fungicides for soybeans has raised many questions about their efficacy against white mold at this stage in the development of the disease. I have discussed this with the plant pathologists at Iowa State University, and the consensus is that there most likely will be little positive effect of a fungicide application at this time because of the advanced progress of the disease.

The most important thing for growers to do at this time is to note the presence of white mold in the field and then select for varieties with lower susceptibility or higher tolerance for white mold the next time soybeans are grown in the field. Wider rows may help with white mold, but wide rows have other drawbacks. If the conditions are good for white mold infection (cold and wet) at the beginning of flowering, the application of an appropriate fungicide at that time may help. An application of Cobra at or just before the first bloom has also been shown to lessen the impact of white mold.

Soybean Sudden Death Syndrome



Soybean Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) is appearing again in 2009. Brown Stem Rot (BSR) can cause leaf symptoms identical to SDS. See pages 70 – 72 of the March 26, 2007 Integrated Crop Management Newsletter or http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2007/3-26/bsr_vs_sds.html for identification and management of SDS and BSR.

If the field has not been tested for Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN), the presence of SDS in the field should prompt a soil test for SCN as SCN is usually present if SDS is present. The sample submission form and instructions for taking the sample are in PD-32 “Plant Nematode Sample Submission Form” which is available at Iowa State University Extension offices or can be downloaded from <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PD32.pdf>.

Soybean Aphid



Over the last week it has become easier to find soybean aphids in most soybean fields. While populations are generally below threshold, some fields have exceeded thresholds and have been sprayed. Fields where a “preventive insecticide” (killing the beneficial insects) was included in the last herbicide application appear to be the fields most commonly over the threshold for Soybean Aphid. The economic threshold is 250 aphids per plant with 80% of the plants being

infested and with populations increasing. Once the soybeans reach growth stage R 5.5, an insecticide application is not needed. If there is a seed 1/8 inch in diameter in a pod at one of the top two nodes with a fully expanded trifoliolate leaf on the main stem of the plant, the plant is about right at R 5.5.

An alternative for conventional scouting is to use the “speed scouting” method developed at the University of Minnesota. You only have to be able to count to 40 to

use this method, but need to take a spreadsheet to the field to take notes and make a decision. You will most likely hit threshold with “speed scouting” before you actually hit the threshold using the conventional method. The data suggests that if you hit the threshold using the “speed scouting” method, there is an 82 per cent chance you will soon go over the threshold using the conventional scouting method. The following site describes the method and provides a link to download the spreadsheet. http://www.soybeans.umn.edu/crop/insects/aphid/aphid_sampling.htm

Scouting techniques and management information can be found in SP 247, *Soybean Aphids in Iowa – 2007*, which can be downloaded from <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/eccrops/transfer/07SBA.pdf>.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Crop Management and Diagnostic Clinics August-September – Ames

The Field Extension Education Laboratory is a 43-acre teaching and demonstration facility dedicated to providing a hands-on learning experience for crop production professionals. The demonstration plots are used to show a wide range of management problems, solutions, and diagnostic challenges. “We make the mistakes on these plots so you won't in the future!” The clinics and programs are taught by Iowa State University staff and faculty and invited specialists from other institutions and industry. Modern, air-conditioned classroom facilities complement the in-field sessions, all of which are within walking distance. Current open programs for this summer include the following:

Aug 25-27, [Iowa Drainage School](#)

September 2, [Alfalfa Production Clinic](#)

September 3, [Corn Disease Diagnostics and Management](#)

September 15, [Soil Management Clinic](#)

For other Agribusiness Education program information, check out the Homepage at: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/homepage.html>

Advances in Precision Ag Field Day ISU SE Iowa Research & Demonstration Farm – Crawfordsville September 17

See the latest in precision agriculture technology, including RTK guidance systems, auto-steer, automatic shut-off planters, and sprayers. As details emerge, they will be posted at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/eccrops/meetserc.html>.

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