

SW Iowa Crop Update, August 21, 2008

I know most of us are getting a little tired of dealing with soybean aphids but they are still hanging around! Weather is still conducive for soybean aphid population growth and damage. Daytime temperatures in the 80's have almost made a perfect environment for them. The lack of precipitation in SW Iowa coupled with soybean aphids can provide additional moisture stress to soybean plants during critical grain filling periods.

The cooler than normal weather conditions coupled with soybeans that may be a little bit behind physiologically are the reasons soybean aphid scouting and control should not quit at this time. I've received many calls asking when the aphids will "crash". Soybean aphids will continue to reproduce and feed with the present weather. Aphids will not travel to overwintering sites until the days become shorter and the night time temperature starts to reach the 40's.

The other half of the equation is the stage of the soybeans at this time. The wet spring pushed back soybean planting dates. Soybeans that are in the early stages of reproduction are very susceptible to damage done by the soybean aphid. Soybeans between R5 and R6 are at the stage where soybean aphid control would not be needed. R5.5 is not really a stage but a point where one of the upper four most nodes have beans in the pod that are somewhere between 1/8" and a full sized bean. Below is a picture of soybeans at the R5 and R6 stage.



Look for pods in the top of the plants with beans somewhere between these two. Soybeans at this stage will not likely sustain damage.

Scout fields of beans that are in the early stages of reproduction than R5.5. Do not forget about the fields that have been sprayed earlier also. Northern Iowa has started spraying soybean aphids for the second time in several areas. I have walked many fields that were sprayed previously and have seen aphids back in these fields.

There have been a few fields that Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) has shown its foliar symptoms. This time of year is a good time to scout for SDS so that preventative measures can be taken for next year's soybean management. Foliar symptoms of SDS are yellowing between leaf veins; eventually these yellow areas turn brown and fall out of the leaf. Below are pictures of SDS leaf symptoms and one of fungus on the root. SDS can infect the soybean plant when

the soybeans are seedlings. Cool wet soils are very good conditions for SDS to infect young soybeans.



Here is a link to a very good SDS webpage, along with management options

http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soybean/diseases_sds.html

Keep up the scouting, have a good week.

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