

Partnership Perk



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Leaf with Asian soybean rust found in Iowa – what does it mean for 2007?

Iowa and all other soybean-producing states in the United States have been on the lookout for Asian soybean rust since it was first discovered in Louisiana in November 2004. But the disease has never been identified in an Iowa field.

Rust infections normally are discovered by observing infected leaves and seeing tell-tale pustules during the growing season. But Iowa State University is announcing today that Asian soybean rust was conclusively identified on soybean residue reported to have been recovered from a bin of soybeans produced in Iowa in 2006. Word of conclusive, official identification of the disease via molecular diagnostic techniques conducted by USDA scientists in Beltsville, Maryland was received yesterday morning.

Efforts are underway to trace the infected plant tissue back to a specific field where the soybeans were produced to search for other tissue that may have symptoms and signs of the disease.

The fungus that causes the disease is not capable of surviving over winter in the absence of green host leaf tissue, so there are no immediate consequences of the discovery of the disease for the 2007 soybean growing season in Iowa.

Long Story Short: The discovery of Asian soybean rust in soybean residue does not pose a risk of infection for the 2007 growing season in Iowa because the fungus cannot survive over winter without a living host.

For more information: The Iowa Soybean Rust Team web site can be found at www.soybeanrust.info. A map of confirmed rust discoveries for 2007 is at www.sbrusa.net.

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