Partnership Perk

July 2, 2007

Soybean Aphids in 2007

Soybean aphid populations have now been reported in a few soybean fields in Iowa. However, population densities in all the reported infestations have been quite light. Iowa State University is cooperating with a USDA effort where soybean aphid populations are monitored and data are posted to a Website, www.sbrusa.net. This is the same website where soybean rust infestations are tracked, but to access the aphid data select soybean aphid from the drop-down menu in the upper right corner of the page (the page opens to "soybean rust").

Soybean aphid infestations require two events to establish; aphids must first arrive in the field, and once there they must survive to reproduce. Survival and subsequent reproduction is dependant on several factors. Weather conditions are one key to aphid reproduction, with cool and dry conditions being more conducive for aphid reproduction. So far this growing season, Iowa temperatures have been warm, and rainfall quite variable. Another factor in aphid establishment and development is the extent of predation of the arriving aphids by predators such as ladybugs, insidious flower bugs and spiders.

Data gathered from a network of suction traps that sample the air for flying aphids in Iowa and the rest of the North Central states are available at the Website www.ncpmc.org/traps/index.cfm. As of July 1, no soybean aphids have been found in suction traps within Iowa. Data are posted weekly.

Long Story Short: The soybean aphid has arrived in some parts of Iowa but as of July 2, all current populations are very low and do not require insecticide treatments. The extent to which the very low populations will result in economically significant outbreaks later in the season is not yet clear. There are two Websites that track aphid populations listed in this Perk. We will continue to update you on the soybean aphid population expansion throughout the summer.

Source: Matt O'Neal, Carol Pilcher and Marlin Rice, Department of Entomology

Produced by Iowa State University Extension specialists for Corn and Soybean Initiative partners.
Questions and comments may be sent to **CSI@iastate.edu**.