

Partnership Perk



October 23, 2006

Late movement of soybean rust

Hot summer temperatures have cooled and frequent rains in parts of the southeastern United States have led to late season discoveries of soybean rust north to the lower Midwest. This push has resulted in soybean rust being confirmed in 79 new counties, including 7 new states since October 9. These new states are Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Virginia.

These late season findings, especially near the lower Ohio River Valley in Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee and Missouri, have been found on nearly mature soybean. A recent e-mail contained this quote from the University of Kentucky plant pathologist: "This find (Fulton County, KY) was in a commercial field of double-cropped soybean that was mature except for a pocket of green plants along one edge of the field. We found soybean rust on 2 out of 50 leaves, and only one pustule per leaf after 12 hrs incubation. Not a very extensive find, but a find nonetheless."

Much like the 2005 season, more soybean rust finds are coming late in the 2006 season and new discoveries could continue until severe frost occurs in an area (Iowa has experienced frost statewide). After a severe frost, soybean rust will not survive because the soybean rust pathogen needs green tissue to live. However, these findings are valuable for understanding soybean rust and predicting its movement in the future. Also, the recent rapid movement of rust is a good reminder that soybean rust can move very quickly during favorable weather conditions.

To date in 2006, soybean rust has been reported in 179 counties including 155 counties with the infection occurring on soybean. Last year at this time, soybean rust had been discovered in only 73 counties in five states.

Long Story Short: Iowa soybean producers escaped soybean rust again in 2006, but late-season discoveries can allow agriculturists to better understand how soybean rust develops and spreads in North America.

For more information: including a current map of confirmed rust discoveries:
<http://www.sbrusa.net/>

Sources:

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