

Partnership Perk



July 5, 2005

Asian Soybean Rust Found in Alabama.

Soybean rust has been found in Alabama for the first time this year. The disease was detected on two soybean plants in sentinel plots growing at the Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center in Baldwin County, near Mobile.

Early last week, four spores that appeared to be those of the soybean rust fungus were recovered in a spore trap located near the sentinel plots. Subsequent follow up surveys conducted by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System personnel discovered the disease on one plant already bearing full-size beans in an early planted sentinel plot and another plant which was in the bloom stage in a sentinel plot planted later. No other rust infections were discovered on soybeans or kudzu and no suspect spores were found in the other seven spore traps established in Alabama.

Alabama Cooperative Extension System experts warn that the recent warm, wet weather could lead to additional soybean rust development. Consequently, Alabama soybean growers were advised to begin scouting frequently. Additionally, soybean growers in south and central Alabama were advised to consider applying a tank mix or a premix of a strobilurin and triazole fungicide immediately if their crop is at bloom or at a later reproductive stage and growers in north Alabama were encouraged to be ready to apply a strobilurin fungicide or a tank mix of a strobilurin and triazole if the disease is discovered to have spread in the upcoming days and weeks.

Long story short: The amount of spores being produced from infested states (FL, GA, and now AL) appears to be small. A researcher in XB Yang's laboratory ran a computer simulation for potential deposition areas of soybean rust spores based on historical weather data from 1997-2003 and the condition of a large amount of spores produced from southeastern Alabama (which is greater than currently known to exist). The simulation results show Iowa having no possibility of spore deposition at this time. Please refer to the latest ICM newsletter where the results of this simulation is explained in greater detail.

Attached to this e-mail message is the press release from Alabama on which this Partnership Perk is based.

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