

Agronomic Directions

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August 18, 2014

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Soybean Aphid Counts On The Rise

Adapted from www.insectforecast.com

Soybean aphid risks have been increased into the Moderate category across portions of northern Iowa and southern Minnesota, with Low risks continuing from northeast Nebraska, eastern South, central Iowa, northern Illinois, and Wisconsin. Reports of scattered insecticide applications and increasing soybean aphid populations especially across northern Iowa and also into southern Minnesota, along with continued favorable weather, has led to an increase in the risk level. Growers located in or near the Moderate risk area, especially with soybean fields in the R1-R5 growth stage, are urged to scout fields now and take appropriate action if economic thresholds of 250 aphids/plant across most of the field are met and populations appear to be increasing. The Moderate risk area is also shifted further east into southeast Minnesota and northeast Iowa by the weekend and early next week as the potential for population increases is also favorable in this region. Growers all across the upper Midwest should be actively scouting soybean fields that are at R5 or younger growth stages as populations, where present, may increase dramatically given favorable temperatures predicted in the next week.



Brown Stem Rot in Soybeans

Adapted from *ISU Integrated Crop Management News*



Figure 1. Soybean plant showing foliar symptoms of brown stem rot.

Soybean diseases are starting to show up in Iowa fields this growing season, including Brown Stem Rot. This infection can result in yield loss for farmers.

Foliar symptoms of BSR are interveinal chlorosis and necrosis (yellow and brown discoloration) of leaves (Figure 1 and 2). Leaves can then curl and die. Inside the soybean stem, vascular and pith tissue turns brown (Figure 3). Foliar symptoms of BSR can easily be mistaken for sudden death syndrome. In order to tell them apart, split the stem and look at the pith tissue. If the pith is brown and not the normal white color, then the plant likely has BSR. Not all BSR-infected plants show foliar symptoms, however.



Figure 2. Leaf of brown stem rot infected plant showing necrosis and chlorosis of tissue.

During the season nothing can be done to control BSR, but it is important to know if it is present for future management. The main control of BSR is selecting soybean varieties that have resistance. We can help you select varieties with excellent ratings for BSR. Also, crop rotation and tillage can help reduce BSR.



Figure 3. The internal stem browning of plants with BSR can help distinguish it from SDS. Courtesy Alison Robertson.

Goss's Wilt Reports in Corn

Adapted from *ISU Integrated Crop Management News*

We've received a few reports of Goss's wilt showing up in corn. It is a disease caused by a bacterium, making fungicide applications ineffective. When scouting for Goss's wilt, focus your attention on fields that are planted to a Goss's susceptible hybrid, have a history of Goss's, have surface corn residue, and may have been injured by severe weather. The most common symptom of Goss's wilt are "freckles" within large reddish-brown lesions that usually occur along the edge of the leaves. Differentiating Goss's wilt from other diseases and abiotic disorders, is the bacterial ooze that occurs on the lesions, giving it a wet or greasy appearance. Dried bacterial exudate is shiny, especially when viewing in sunlight.

Your best management method is selecting hybrids with genetic resistance to Goss's wilt. Cornelius Seed has a great selection of those hybrids in our line-up. Other management methods include, reduce corn residue and control grassy weeds that are hosts for the bacteria. The bacteria overwinter in crop residue.

