# Japanese Beetles And Common Rust Remain A Concern On Corn: Soybeans Look Very Good

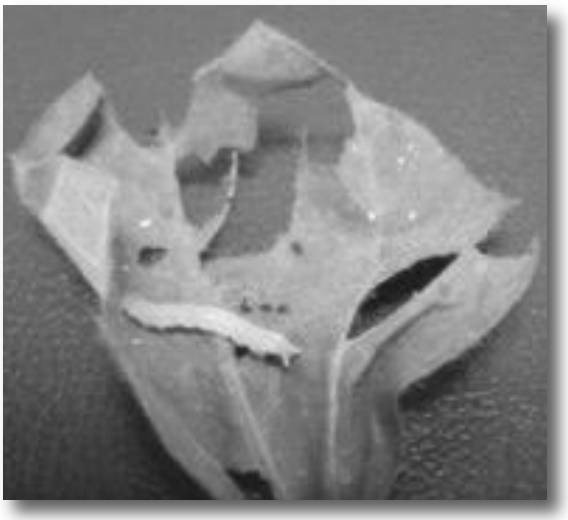
**LAMAR, MO.**

Japanese beetles remain a concern for many corn growers in southwest Missouri according to Jay Chism, an agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension.

"I have had several calls from producers worried about Japanese beetles," said Chism. "The number of adult beetles in the county has increased significantly this year."

In fact, Chism said he found 340 Japanese beetles in his trap on June 22 which had been caught over a five day period.

"Until this week, the largest number of beetles caught in Barton County has only been three or four in a five day period," said Chism.



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**Above: Green clover worm**
**Right: Japanese Beetles feeding on corn**
Image provided by Julie Abendroth

In the Golden City and Lockwood area some producers applied insecticide to wheat to reduce the beetle numbers.

"At this time I am mostly concerned about corn that is just beginning to silk. Japanese beetles can feed on silks and disrupt pollination. Treatment is justified if three or more beetles are present during silking," said Chism.

**SOYBEANS**

Chism also scouted corn and soybeans north of Lamar and said overall the crops look very good with no major insects. However, he did receive a call from a farmer that had 50 acres of soybeans damaged by cutworms.

"So, continue watch new soybeans as this damage may continue, especially in the north part of the county. If cutting reaches or exceeds 20 percent treatment is justified," said Chism.

If a producer is scouting a soybean field, they might also notice green clover worms feeding. This larva will usually only cause superficial damage. Chism says treatment is justified if defoliation reaches 20 percent during bloom to pod set. The worm is easy to identify because it thrashes about violently when handled.

**COMMON RUST**

Rainy weather has also led to some spotting of common rust in southwest Missouri corn fields.

According to Laura Sweets, a University of Missouri Extension plant pathologist, the biggest thing with rust is "that it's such a rapid-building disease that you really need to get your fungicide on early to be effective."

Paying attention to that early development is necessary with rust, which will rapidly reach a point that takes a toll on fields.

"When you're scouting for rust, you'll count pustules and initially see just a few, then you will see 10 or 20, and the next jump will be exponential where you'll see them in the hundreds per leaf," Sweets said. "If fungicides are going to be effective, you need to spray them before you see that exponential explosion."

Rust tends to be a problem in seasons when strong wind currents come from the south, spreading fungal spores to Missouri crops.

"Typically we get our inoculum from Texas and Oklahoma. We see it affect southwest Missouri first and catch air currents up through Sedalia into northern Missouri," Sweets said.

Although common rust may present a problem in many fields and warrant early application of fungicide, Sweets noted that farmers should carefully evaluate whether spraying will pay off. Δ