

Late Season Soybean Challenges



DR. DENNIS R. EPPLIN

MT. VERNON, ILL.

Even with late planting, quite a few soybean fields have seen harvest progress. There have been mixed results on production, with both some good yields and some disappointing yields.

Most of us would agree that soybeans had a number of challenges to overcome in the 2009 season. Late planting does not dictate failure; however, it is not desirable on the majority of the acres. The wet field conditions that delayed planting also presented conditions that favored soil compaction. The compaction and regular rainfall did not encourage a good, healthy root system.

Nutrient deficiencies can show up in fields that have good soil test levels if compaction is a serious problem. Potassium deficiency is most frequently observed due to poor rooting and soil compaction. Occasionally, these conditions interact with other disorders such as soybean top dieback and then create a cumulative effect on the plant(s).

The first region-wide appearance of soybean aphids in southern Illinois needs to be noted. Yes, we had seen soybean aphids before, but not on an economic scale with widespread geography. Some fields were sprayed and some were not. The 2009 season will have been a

“learning experience” for growers who experienced soybean aphids.

Most plant diseases always do best under wet conditions, and many flourished in 2009. There is almost always septoria brown spot present in the field. Bacterial blight was probably more common this season due to cool, wet weather. Frogeye leaf spot appeared on the soybean varieties that lacked adequate resistance to the disease.

I also need to mention the systemic diseases and the root and crown rot problems. Wet seasons tend to increase these plant pathology issues. Charcoal rot was somewhat uncommon because it does best in hot, dry conditions. Sudden death syndrome may have been minimized by later planting, not necessarily the best method of reducing disease pressure.

Finally, Asian Soybean Rust made its presence known in the region once again. Fortunately, rust has not taken an economic toll in the lower Corn Belt, but it continues to be a disease to monitor.

What can you do for next year? You will not control the weather. You may be able to make field drainage improvements. Remember to utilize cultural methods such as crop rotation. When doing variety selection, look for disease resistant seed varieties. Utilize seed treatments and crop protection chemicals when necessary, keeping proper stewardship as a priority. Δ

Dr. Dennis R. Epplin: Extension Educator, Crop Systems, University of Illinois



Link Directly To: **AgVENTURE**



Link Directly To: **APACHE**