

New Soybean Rust Yield Loss Prediction Tool Now Available



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Fortunately soybean rust (SBR) has not been anywhere near the problem we thought it might be when we first found the disease in late November, 2004. The bottom line is that weather conditions since 2005 have significantly limited the extent of SBR overwintering along the Gulf coast, and have not favored SBR establishment and build-up until very late in the season in most production areas. All soybean pathologists across the country are very glad things have turned out like they have (thus far). However, we are all in agreement that someday, the “perfect storm” of conditions will allow SBR to move into significant soybean acreage in the South, and perhaps north, early enough to cause serious yield damage to unprotected (no fungicide) fields. It might be a one in 10- or 20-year event, but the probability is quite high that it will eventually happen.

With the above in mind, we are committed to being prepared to help soybean farmers make the most appropriate SBR fungicide decisions when the time comes. To that end, below is a link to a new SBR Yield Loss Prediction Tool for Managing Soybean Rust. The Tool was developed by Dr. Saratha Kumudini (formerly with the University of Kentucky and now with Monsanto) and various scientists from the US and Brazil. <http://dept.ca.uky.edu/sbrtool/>

The Tool was developed primarily for southern soybean producers, but we believe it will also benefit northern producers should spraying for SBR ever become necessary. The beauty of the Tool is that it allows for input of specific information for each field in question. The Tool then generates data on estimated yield and economic impact based on crop yield potential, crop growth stage, and fungicide treatment cost for three possible SBR progress scenarios (light moderate, severe). Of course, fungicide applications targeting SBR must be made **BEFORE** one can know how the epidemic will play out. Still, the disease progress options are given in order to provide information on possible outcomes depending on how the disease might progress during the season. Ultimately, farmers will have to make a “best guess” as to which epidemic “type” is most likely to play out based on the disease situation at a given time, as well as recommendations being made by the state Extension pathologist.

I know that SBR is barely on anyone’s mind at the present time. However, it might be fun and educational to check out the Tool during the off season, so you can see how it might benefit you should spraying a fungicide for SBR control ever become necessary. Δ

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Link Directly To: **PIONEER**



Link Directly To: **VERMEER**