

Pioneer Talks Crops

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Southern rust in corn has been spotted in several states in the Delta. We spotted some fields with southern rust in northeastern Arkansas while touring plots in late July. Southern rust can look like common rust in the field. The best way to tell the difference between the two is to look at the color of the rust and determine if the rust pustule is on both sides of the leaf or if it's mostly on the upper part of the leaf. Southern rust spores tend to stay on the upper surface of the leaf tissue while common rust spores will infect both the top and bottom sides of the leaf where the lesions are present. Also, southern rust spores have a brighter orange color as opposed to the darker burnt orange color of common rust. Southern rust is a very aggressive disease in corn. If you spot the disease in your field, you will want to treat it with a labeled fungicide as soon as possible in order to preserve yield and to enhance standability.

Harvest will be here soon. Harvest is the time

to consider what worked and what did not. This also goes for variety/hybrid performance (yield and harvest ease), population, standability, weed control measures and soil fertility, among other things. Monitoring weed control from the combine seat is an excellent way to survey which weeds escaped weed control measures and what weed challenges to expect for next year. Additionally, weak yielding areas in the field are especially evident from the operator's seat during harvest. By concentrating on poor producing areas during fall soil sampling, we can understand what makes the area weak and try to create solutions.

Wheat planting is right around the corner. High-yielding wheat can be achieved by managing fertility, insects and disease. Be sure to consider planting a high-quality, treated wheat seed. And remember, fungicide seed treatments are a must – they help ensure winter survival. Insecticide seed treatments are gaining traction for fall aphid control. Some other tips to improve yields: Split-apply nitrogen, spray for aphids in the fall and spring, apply fungicides for foliar disease control and head scab, and control weeds early. With the right environment, we can hope to make high yields again this next year. Δ

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