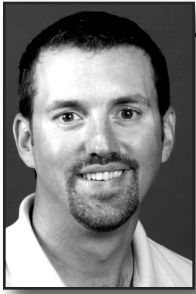


Pioneer Talks Crops

Welcome to Pioneer Talks Crops. This information is provided by the Pioneer agronomist serving your community.



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2012 has been one of the hottest and driest on record for many areas of the upper mid-south. But in some areas of the deep south there has been ample rainfall with moderate temperatures resulting in higher than expected yields. Each year is

unique and this year is no exception.

Sudden death syndrome (SDS) has unexpectedly appeared in several fields across the mid south this year. SDS is a mid-season soilborne disease which usually occurs under high yield potential environments. The disease is favored by soybean cyst nematodes, irrigation, and cool wet weather.

Symptoms will first appear as yellow spots between the veins.

The spots will extend into yellow

streaks and then turn brown. The major veins of the leaf will remain green. Leaves will detach from severely affected plants leaving the petioles attached to the plant. Root systems will be reduced with a brown vascular discoloration, but the pith will remain white. If symptoms occur early enough to cause pod abortion, yield can be reduced significantly. However, if symptoms occur in a field after mid-pod fill, damage may be minimal.

Why we are seeing so much SDS since this year? The reason for SDS this year has been primarily characterized by hot weather and little rainfall. My opinion is that SDS infection

this year may be due to earlier planting dates, and in some cases, early irrigation due to extreme drought conditions. SDS is difficult to manage once symptoms appear. The following are SDS preventive management strategies:

- Plant more resistant varieties early in the year and more susceptible varieties later in the year

- Plant more than one soybean maturity group

- Manage soybean cyst nematode, maintain soil fertility, and try to avoid crop stress

- Improve drainage in poorly drained fields and avoid compaction

- Do not delay harvesting fields infected with SDS

Wheat planting is also right around the corner. This year several growers have expressed interest in knowing more about managing wheat. High yielding wheat can be achieved by managing fertility, insects, and disease.

Be sure to look at planting good quality treated wheat seed. Fungicide seed treatments are a must. This will help ensure winter survival. Insecticide seed treatments are gaining traction as well for fall aphid control. Some other tips to improve yields are to split apply nitrogen, spray for aphids in the fall and spring, apply fungicides for disease control, and control weeds early. Hopefully with the right environment we can make high yields. Δ

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