Pioneer Talks Crops

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

GREG PFEFFER

DEXTER, MO.

This year has been an interesting contrast to 2012. Luckily, we are closer to our average rainfall amounts and temperatures for this time of year. The main issue is that we have received most of our rain during planting season, and that has kept us out of the field. Hopefully the weather pattern will even out for the rest of the year.

Disease pressure

I have had several calls this year about Rhizoctonia root rot in soybeans. That and charcoal rot are the two most common soybean diseases that show up when the weather turns hot and dry. Favoring heat and drought conditions, these two diseases are more likely to occur if the crop is under any additional stress such as herbicide injury, cyst pressure or insect feeding. Rhizoctonia root rot will show up as a lesion close to the soil line and will be characterized by a brick red color. Charcoal rot will show up initially as a darkening of the vascular tissue in the root and then later as irregular dark lines in the pith and stem of the plant. These diseases can result in plant death and stand loss depending upon the severity levels. Be sure to keep watch: Fields may need to be replanted if stand loss exceeds 25 percent of the desired stand.

Insect scouting

Since the soybean crop is later this year, insects will be hitting sooner than normal in the life of the plant. Soybeans are not able to compensate as well during reproductive stages so damage thresholds are low. The University of Missouri states that thresholds for insect control before bloom is 30 percent leaf defoliation. From bloom to maturity the threshold level is 20 percent leaf defoliation or 10 percent pod damage.

In late-planted fields, Japanese beetles, stinkbugs and bean leaf beetles may be an issue. Also, be on the lookout for fall armyworms, corn earworms, soybean and cabbage loopers, and clover worms. Use a labeled insecticide for control of these insect species, paying particular attention to new insecticides that provide extended residual for worm species. Δ

GREG PFEFFER: Agronomist for Pioneer, Dexter, Missouri