

Saving Farmers Money

Scout Before Applying Fungicides

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“We are trying to get our growers to really scout their field before they apply a fungicide,” said Scott Monfort, Extension Plant Pathologist with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

According to Monfort, economic diseases like aerial blight, frogeye leaf spot, and cercospora leaf blight are starting to pop up in the fields throughout the state of Arkansas. Minor diseases like downy mildew and brown spot are also being observed in most every field.

“We had a few localized problems with aerial blight in areas that have received excessive rain over the last few weeks. These fields warranted an application of fungicide; however, a majority of our soybean acreage has not needed a fungicide,” said Monfort.

“If you can correctly identify the minor diseases from the major ones, then it may eliminate the cost of putting fungicide on your acres if you don’t really need it,” said Monfort.

“Our goal is just trying to get growers out into the field,” said Monfort, “looking for diseases and trying to make them aware that scouting is one of the most beneficial things that you can do.”

As for an update on soybean rust, Monfort stated that it has been a hot topic for the last few years. “Last year was the closest that we had seen to damage in a lot of our acres,” said Monfort.

“The rust came in late July, so it really prompted us to get out into the field and monitor the disease as much as possible,” said Monfort. “We still monitor it on a weekly basis, just so we can be aware. Right now, things look clear.” Δ



Dr. Scott Monfort, Extension Plant Pathologist, urging farmers to scout their fields to make them aware that scouting is one of the most beneficial things that you can do.

Photo by John LaRose, Jr.