

To Spray Or Not To Spray

Wet Weather Predicted To Create Fairly Severe Soybean Disease In Tennessee

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Wet weather presented many disease problems across Tennessee. Dr. Melvin Newman, Extension Plant Pathologist at the University of Tennessee explained, "In our wheat, there was a big problem with scab. Our corn has a problem with leaf spots. Soybeans have problems with all the foliar and root diseases."

Newman still expects a good crop, "that does not mean that we are not going to make a good crop. There will be some percentage in our soybeans we will probably lose to the 12 major diseases and nematodes. We will probably, collectively lose about 20 percent of the crop. This is a four year average."

Newman explained routinely Tennessee is the state where Southern diseases and Northern diseases come together. At the Milan research center Newman is testing all the new fungicides and varieties. Newman said, "producers need to be particular on where they plant their soybeans and what variety they are using. They need to look at the University of Tennessee ratings." Newman urges producers to avoid making blind decisions or planting a variety just because somebody else said to. "I have already rated all the 85 varieties that are out there with and without a fungicide." This information can be found at www.utcrops.com. Data for the 2009 season should be posted by Thanksgiving.

Producers must pay attention to soil tests. "We highly recommend testing because we are in a situation where we have about 50 percent of our soybeans infested with the cyst nematode and about 85 percent of those acres are now race 2 which there is no commercial re-

sistance at this time. The only good control for soybean cyst nematode is rotation but, there are problems with rotation because Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) is worse after corn."

Many producers in Tennessee use a foliar fungicide routinely for late season soybean diseases. But, not all producers need to spray foliar fungicides according to Newman, "if you are well rotated and there is no major problem and you have a good variety that is resistant to



Wet weather presented many disease problems across Tennessee explained Dr. Melvin Newman, Extension Plant Pathologist at the University of Tennessee. Photo by John LaRose

some of the foliar diseases, you may not need to spray your beans. It is an economic issue. When soybean prices are really good, it doesn't take but a couple of bushels for soybeans to pay for one application of fungicide." Soybean diseases are predicted to be fairly severe due to the unusual wet weather and spraying with a fungicide might save a lot of yield from diseases. Δ

REGINA LAROSE: Associate Editor, MidAmerica Farmer Grower

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