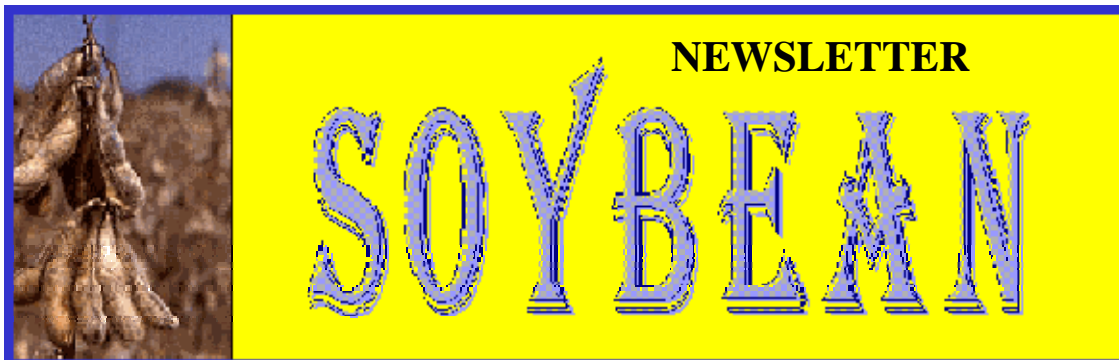




The University of Georgia
Cooperative Extension Service
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences



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<http://www.griffin.uga.edu/caes/soybeans>

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PREPARATIONS CONTINUE FOR SOYBEAN RUST IN UPCOMING SEASON (*Kemerait, Sconyers, Jost*) By now, most involved with soybean production in Georgia are aware that Asian soybean rust was found late this winter at four locations in the southern part of the state on kudzu that had survived freezing temperatures. There is little doubt that kudzu and soybean rust survived elsewhere in the state as well, though we would be surprised if this occurred much farther north than the lower Coastal Plain.

Because the disease over-wintered in Georgia this winter, we expect that soybean rust will spread earlier and more quickly in 2006 than in 2005, though we cannot say how much so. We in the Cooperative Extension Service are advising growers who plant soybean in Georgia in 2006 to go ahead and budget \$20-\$30 per acre for management of this disease with fungicides. It is possible, though unlikely, that these fungicides will not be needed. However, after the 2005 season, we have enough respect for the disease to warn that all soybean producers should plan to manage rust with fungicides as it develops.

Sentinel Plots

Since January, the UGA Soybean Team has been monitoring kudzu patches around the state for the presence of rust. As of 11 April, kudzu across much of the state had broken dormancy and was putting on new foliage. We have not found any spread of soybean rust to this new growth as of 11 April; however we expect that spread could begin very soon.

Additionally, sentinel plots, such as those used so effectively in 2005 to warn of rust spreading in soybean, are being planted right now in fields across the state and will be continually monitored. Leaf samples will be brought to the laboratory on a regular schedule and examined for rust with

a microscope. Once Asian soybean rust is detected, growers, county agents, and members of industry will be notified immediately.

Current Weather Conditions

It has been very dry across much of Georgia for the past 6 weeks and we expect such conditions to continue for the time being. While dry conditions will not eliminate the threat of rust, dry conditions will hopefully help to slow the build-up of the disease. Free moisture (dew, rainfall, irrigation, etc.) is needed for the rust spores to infect the plant and storms, i.e. wind and blowing rain, aide in dispersal of spores. Dry weather will help to reduce the threat.

Fungicide Considerations

Although there are Section 18 requests presently with the EPA for consideration, we will likely need to work with the same fungicides for control of rust that were used last year. Thankfully, these fungicides currently available to our growers are very effective against rust. We will likely see an additional formulation of tebuconazole, "Uppercut" from DuPont with a Section 18 label early this season.

THE EFFECT OF RUST IN BRAZIL (*Jost*) I recently received an email from the University of Kentucky Extension Plant Pathologist Donn Hershman containing a news release from Brazil. For those not familiar with soybean production in Brazil, it can be a year-round crop in certain areas. Plantings generally occur in September through December (spring and summer months in the southern hemisphere). However, plantings also occur in certain regions during May through August for seed production for the following year. In addition, volunteers from the summer plantings often survive through the winter. In essence, the situation in Brazil is much different than it is in the United States where soybeans are only grown in the summer and Soybean rust must survive on alternate hosts such as Kudzu. Also what is particularly interesting is the time it has taken for this disease to become well established in this area. It appears that it gets worse year after year.....

The news release was titled "Brazil may ban winter soy planting to curb rust SAO PAULO, Brazil, April 11 (Reuters)" with reporting by Reese Ewing; Editing by David Gregorio; Reuters. In this news release it was stated that Brazilian lawmakers and the soybean industry in general are considering banning the production of soybeans during winter months in the Southern Hemisphere. The general concern is that the frequency of fungicide applications has increased recently. Where this disease used to be controlled with one or two sprayings, it is now requiring 3, 4, or even 5.

Georgia producers struggle to make one or two sprays come out economical!


Asian soybean rust arrived in Brazil in 2002 and has rapidly spread across the country. Similar to what we observed in Georgia last year, volunteers during the off season serve as a host. The main difference in Brazil though, is that "volunteers" may survive the entire off-season.

Generally planting in Brazil occurs in September through December, but plantings also occur in May-August. These May-August plantings also serve as hosts.

What Brazil farmers are now facing is that rust is occurring earlier and more frequent, infections are even occurring on beans in vegetative growth stages.

The main point that I want to make is to not get complacent. If you are going to grow beans keep rust in mind and in the budget. Past results are no guarantee of future performance.

Edited by: **Philip H. Jost**, Extension Agronomist-Cotton & Soybeans



Contributions by:

Philip H. Jost, Extension Agronomist-Cotton & Soybeans

Bob Kemerait, Extension Plant Pathologist

Layla Sconyers, Research Post-Doc, Plant Pathology

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