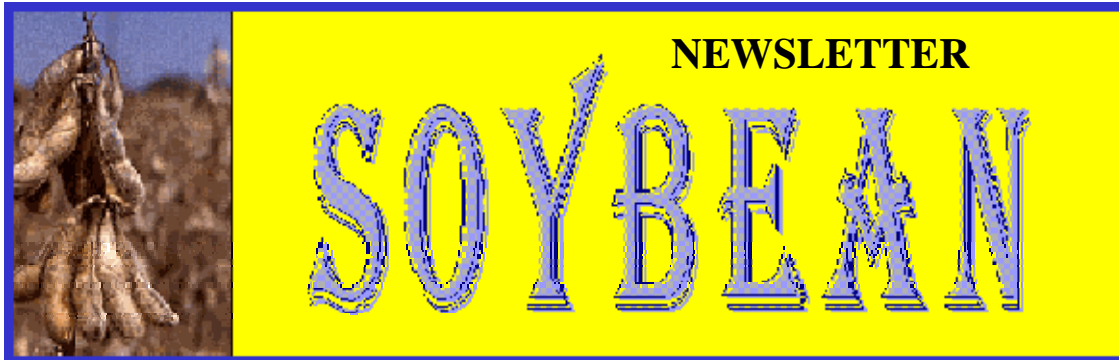




The University of Georgia
Cooperative Extension Service
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences



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

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WHERE'S THE RUST? (Kemerait and Sconyers) Asian soybean rust was found to survive Georgia's winter on kudzu in at least four counties in southern Georgia and also in northern Florida and in Alabama. However, no new rust has been found in Georgia since mid-March and none has been found spreading to new kudzu in our state.

Given the early finds of Asian soybean rust in Georgia, we predicted that the disease would have already become well-established on new-growth kudzu. To date, this has not happened. The answer becomes, "why not?".

The most likely reason that rust has not yet spread in the state has to do with the "La Niña" weather patterns this spring that included conditions that are warmer and drier than normal. Given that scarce rainfall fell in the state during March and April, conditions were unfavorable for the spread of the rust disease. (Free moisture is critical for the germination and infection of rust spores.)

Some may ask, "Are we out of danger from rust now?" because the disease has been slow to spread. The answer is certainly "NO!"; we have a long way to go before our crop reaches the relative safety of the R6 growth stage. In fact, we have begun to receive more rainfall in the first two weeks of May. University of Georgia climatologist Dr. Joel Paz has reported that "La Niña" is nearly over and we can expect more typical rainfall patterns in the future. In fact, researchers at the University of Florida have just reported the likely first-find of the disease spreading on kudzu in the northern part of that state. They attribute this development to recent rainfall.

Soybean growers in Georgia should be assured that the Soybean Team at the University of Georgia has an ongoing monitoring program for early detection of soybean rust. When rust is detected, growers will be quickly notified through the Extension service.

PLANTING DATES, MATURITY GROUPS, AND ROW SPACING (Jost) Several questions have come up this year again on planting dates and maturity groups. In Georgia, the “optimal” planting date for soybeans is generally considered to be May 10 through June 10. However, a lot of this depends on what maturity group being planted.

Across the south there is also much interest in the Early Soybean Production System. In this system early maturing indeterminate group IIIs and IVs are actually planted in April. These maturity groups should not be planted in May in southern Georgia.

Group V, VI, VII and IIIs can be planted during early to mid-May. As we progress later into the planting window later maturity groups should be planted. A soybean flowers in response to day length (actually night length). An earlier maturity group will flower earlier in the summer than a late maturity group soybean. Thus, if a group V or VI is planted late there is the possibility of the plant beginning to flower prior to the development of a full canopy. If this occurs yield will be reduced.

Row spacing is also a concern. Research in Georgia has failed to show a significant difference in yield between wide and narrow row spacings when soybeans are planted during the “optimal” time. Narrow rows tend to perform better than wide rows when planting occurs either ultra-early or ultra-late.

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