Seminole County Crop News

June 10 and 13, 2011

Southern Rust found Just South

Southern Corn Rust Found Just South of Georgia

Dr. Bob Kemerait, UGA Extension Plant Pathologist

The very hot and dry weather remains generally unfavorable for the development and spread of northern corn leaf blight; this disease has only been reported sporadically in Georgia in 2011 and usually has been found in irrigated fields in corn behind corn. Though southern corn rust thrives in warm/hot weather, the disease is generally more of a problem when there is both hot weather and more abundant rainfall. Obviously most of us are short on rainfall this season. To date, southern corn rust has not been found in Georgia. **HOWEVER,** Kevin Phillips with Pioneer Seed brought a sample to the UGA Disease Diagnostic Lab in Tifton Thursday, June9th that was confirmed by Jason Brock as southern corn rust. **The leaf sample was collected in Jefferson County FLORIDA two miles south of the Florida-Georgia line from Brooks County**.
The incidence of southern rust was very low in the field, which is heavily irrigated.

Based upon this find close to the Georgia border near Brooks County, it is advisable that growers with irrigated corn in the deep south of Georgia continue careful scouting of their fields for southern rust and northern corn leaf blight. Because conditions are so hot and dry, I am not recommending that every grower with irrigated corn in the deep south of the state apply fungicides as the crop reaches tasseling. Fungicides are not needed in every irrigated field at this time. HOWEVER, with this find in north Florida, corn growers in Lowndes, Brooks, Thomas, Grady, Decatur, Seminole, Cook, Colquitt, Mitchell, Baker, Miller, and Early should be on the lookout for the disease. Additionally, those growers who are most risk-adverse in the region should recognize that the risk of southern rust has increased with this find. What remains unknown is the extent to which southern corn rust will develop and spread this season.

Note from Rome: I was in numerous fields the past few days and have not found any southern rust yet here in Seminole County. It's likely just a matter of time with the find in North Florida and the windy storms we've been having to move it north. Also, Stink bug numbers are low in most fields.

Cotton a Mixed Bag, some recovering,

Cotton is looking better this week but some replanting continues. Below photo shows some weak cotton that is putting on new roots and hopefully is getting past some stress and will get on the right track. But not without lots of water to keep it going to this point after early season stress.

This cotton below is squaring well and looks good, you can see the speckling from residual herbicides to keep pigweed from emerging.

We got to keep it wet to keep it growing. Before bloom cotton will use about an inch of water a week. Even then, you don't want it to wilt before noon so more may be needed..

Peanuts Blooming and Some Pegging

Good blooms on early planted , irrigated peanuts this week. Some foliage feeders are still giving problems in peanut fields. You can see some minor leaf feeding in this photo.

Pegs and small pods are developing on these twin row peanuts. Now calcium is critical and lots of landplaster is going out now to provide calcium in the pegging zone. The amount of calcium in the pegging zone is important as well as the ratio of Calcium to Potassium. You don't want too much potassium in that zone to compete with calcium going into the peg and plant.

Calcium is even more important with conditions like we're having with high heat and dry weather. We must have moisture to move it into the peg and plant.

Boron and Calcium, Dr. Glen Harris, UGA Extension Soil Scientist

The UGA recommendation of 0.5 lb. boron/a with early fungicide sprays is probably more critical since boron in soil may not get into the plant as well during drought conditions. Again, to avoid burn, it will be best to split the boron applications into 2 applications of 0.25 lb. boron/a with fungicide sprays. Including boron with night-time fungicide sprays may still be effective since there is some evidence that nutrients may actually feed better through the underside of leaves.

Calcium nutrition is a major concern for peanuts under any conditions but especially under drought stressed. Since water is needed to get calcium into the soil solution, and then into the developing pods, the solubility of the calcium source may play a more important role. Everyone should know by now that the calcium in calcium sulfate (gypsum or landplaster) is about 10 times more soluble than the calcium in calcium carbonate (lime). That is why the

UGA recommendation is to apply lime at planting if you use it and gypsum at early bloom if it's used.

Protecting the Peanut crop against leaf spot,

By Dr. Bob Kemerait, UGA Extension Plant Pathologist:

Fungicide applications to manage peanut leaf spot diseases are often initiated approximately 30 days after planting unless the grower is at reduced risk for this disease based upon Peanut Rx, is using a fungicide like Headline at an appropriate rate where leaf spot management begins at 45 days after planting, or when weather conditions are unfavorable for development and spread of leaf spot diseases. Given the current weather conditions (hot and dry), growers managing non-irrigated fields planted to peanut can certainly delay the start of a fungicide program by as much as a week to 10 days without fear of leaf spot unless conditions change suddenly. (Poor crop rotation increases risk to leaf spot diseases even in dryland fields and this must be a part of the decision of when to begin leaf spot fungicide applications.) Growers managing irrigated fields of peanuts can also likely delay start of the leaf spot program by perhaps 5-7 days unless a) the current peanut crop follows a peanut crop planted in 2010, or b) where the field has been irrigated frequently enough so as to offset the effects of drought. Note: The most effective method to manage peanut leaf spot is to avoid letting the diseases get established in the field in the first place. Protective (pre-disease) fungicide applications are KEY to this program; however the start of a protective program can be delayed in periods like many growers are facing now. Finally, AU-pnut is a weather-based leaf spot advisory that could be very beneficial in 2011.

Protecting the crop against white mold: Despite the dry weather, the warm soil temperatures could actually lead to earlier-than-normal outbreaks of white mold (stem rot). Early outbreaks of white mold are especially likely on poorly rotated, irrigated fields where the disease may affect the crop as "underground white mold." Growers who have reason to be concerned about early-season white mold may want to consider initiating their white mold program earlier than usual, perhaps at 45 rather than 60 days after planting.

Question Of The Week – Tassel-Ear

Last weeks question concerned a funny looking corn plant with the tassel and ear combined. It's what's called Tassel – Ear. We see some every year, but it's just a few plants and is usually on a sucker near the edge of the field. Of course corn normally has separate male(Tassel) and female(Ear) flowers. Once in a while it gets mixed up and puts male and female parts together.

Here's a link to more info about it from Purdue University:

http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/timeless/TasselEars.html

This week's question has to do with some tracks I came across this week on a sandy field road. What made the tracks?

Later,

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