

6/17/16

Crop Update

Corn:

Although the current weather doesn't indicate favorable conditions for disease, Dr. Carl Bradley, University of Kentucky, wrote a recent article on southern corn rust in [Kentucky Pest News](#). Southern rust is a disease that did show up last season. First, there are two rusts that can be found in corn: common rust and southern rust. Rust fungus does not overwinter on corn residue, therefore infection of either rust depends on spores that are blown in from the south. The spores follow wind patterns that are termed the *Puccinia* (rust) pathway. You can monitor the *Puccinia* pathway through the IPM PIPE website for rust movement: <http://www.ipmpipe.org/>.

Common rust is generally thought of as a cool weather rust, favoring temperatures less than 80 degrees F with moist conditions. Given this month's weather and that most commercial hybrids are tolerant, the risk of yield loss from common rust is not likely. Southern rust is favored by warm temperatures, high humidity and moist conditions. Unlike common rust, there is no known resistance to southern rust in commercial hybrids. Southern rust can be distinguished from common rust by pustule appearance. Southern rust pustules have yellow halos, circular/oval, orange in color and found on the upper leaf surface. More information on rusts can be found in [MU IPM Guide 1001 "Corn Diseases."](#) This year's Corn Disease Working Group fungicide efficacy table is available at the following website: <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-160-W.pdf>.

Since timing is critical for southern rust management, it is important to monitor spore movement with the IPM PIPE website and scout fields if weather patterns become favorable for this disease prior to R3 (milk stage) when yield loss potential is highest. If southern rust did move in on later reproductive development stages yield loss potential is reduced and the benefit from fungicides is unlikely.

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