

May 20, 2009

- **Crazy Top** – Crazy top, caused by downy mildew fungus, occurs when young corn seedlings are subjected to saturated soil conditions. This may be the case for many early planted fields. Losses are seldom severe enough to require control. Future management options include improving soil drainage or rotating to a non-grass crop.
- **Sericea Lespedeza** – Research in Kansas and Oklahoma indicates that good control is achieved when triclopyr or triclopyr-containing herbicides are applied to vegetative sericea in June or July. Good control has also been observed with applications of metsulfuron or metsulfuron-containing herbicides at early bud to bloom growth. However, research conducted in Missouri indicates no difference in control between herbicides that were applied in the vegetative stage versus the early bud to bloom stage.
- **Armyworm** – I have not yet trapped any armyworms this year, although substantial numbers have been trapped to the south. It is important to scout for these pests, as outbreaks can be extremely localized. Armyworms prefer corn, wheat, and tall fescue, especially fields being saved for seed.
- **Soybean Rust** – Soybean rust has been found on kudzu in five states along the gulf coast: Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. University of Missouri Extension agronomists will not be scouting for rust this year with the exception of a few locations in southwest and southeast Missouri.

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