

## Soybean Rust – What Happened in 2008?

Several growers have been asking about what happened regarding soybean rust this past year. Thankfully, Missouri did not have a problem. However, one county was confirmed with soybean rust in the boot-heel. It seemed with all the rain and cool temperatures we had early in the spring of '08, we were facing the prospect of this disease to develop.

However, rust did not move from the Gulf or Texas to our location. There were reports of rust in the southern states of Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, Texas in January of last year. Luckily, the areas continued to be dry and slowed the development of the disease and inoculum which could be moved northward with storms.

Soybean rust can only over-winter on live tissue. So each year, soybean rust will have to move from over-wintering sites to infect plants into the Mid-west and namely Missouri.

As the growing season progressed, the Gulf and Texas continued to experience dry weather. Soybean rust never seemed to develop in those areas resulting in low amounts of inoculum available to be carried northward. We dodged the bullet again.

Currently, in 2009, rust is confirmed in Florida and Georgia on kudzu. There are no reports of this disease in Texas or Mexico.

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