

Positive confirmations of soybean rust continue to increase in the southern states and as a result, soybean producers in Missouri question the potential for soybean rust to infect the 2007 crop, with the late planted soybean fields potentially at the greatest risk. However, with the current dry conditions throughout much of west central and central Missouri, Laura Sweets (MU Extension Plant Pathologist) notes that the risk for soybean rust in this region of Missouri is low. With the current weather conditions, the viability of rust spores is unlikely and therefore, infection ability is low. With Missouri currently at low risk status for soybean rust, soybean producers are encouraged to continue monitoring the lower canopy of soybean fields. Soybean should be monitored for rust through R6, the full seed stage. Once pods contain green seed that fills the pod capacity at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem, the potential for yield loss due to soybean rust infection is low.

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, soybean rust was reported on soybean in Tulsa County, Oklahoma, which marks the furthest north the disease has been found in 2007. However, rust incidence was low at 1%. Current weather conditions for this region of Oklahoma are not conducive for rust development, with excessive heat and windy conditions predicted. Also, on August 9<sup>th</sup>, soybean rust was positively confirmed for 6 new parishes in Louisiana. In Texas, rust has found in the majority of the soybean producing areas, except for the panhandle. In total, rust has been confirmed in 24 counties in Texas, 13 parishes in Louisiana, 5 counties in Alabama, Oklahoma & Georgia each, 4 counties in Arkansas, 11 counties in Florida, and 1 county in Mississippi. Soybean producers are encouraged to check the website [www.sbrusa.net](http://www.sbrusa.net) for daily updates on the progression of soybean rust. Sentinel plots throughout Missouri continue to be monitored for development of soybean rust by regional and state specialists, and will be until the end of our growing season.

Lastly, numerous calls have been received regarding soybean aphid infestations in soybean. Soybean aphid has predominantly been a problem in fields north of I-70, with numerous fields being above the threshold for economic damage in NW Missouri. Although the aphid can build up large populations in only a few days, high temperatures slow the reproductive rate. As noted by Wayne Bailey, MU Extension Entomologist, the soybean aphid reproductive rate begins to slow at 85 degrees and once temperatures reach 97-98 degrees, the reproductive rate nearly stops. As a result, producers should continue monitoring soybean fields for the soybean aphid, but be aware that with the current temperatures, aphid populations will not increase rapidly. Once there are 250 aphids per plant, treatment should be considered.