UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI Extension

Profit and Performance

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Agronomy Information and Tips

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Important Dates:
December 12-13
Soybean School at TJ Hall Building in Oregon

Jan 3 MU Mark your calendar to visit with MU Professors to discuss research to help manage increase in input prices. Holiday Inn, Maryville

Jan 22-23
CCA Meeting in St. Joseph

Jan 29
Corn and Soybean Growers Association Meeting in St. Joseph

Welcome Randa Brunkhorst, new Ag Business Specialist located in Nodaway County starting October 1. She will be serving Atchison, Nodaway, Gentry and Worth Counties. Other Business Specialist are Bob Kelly located in St. Joseph and Kevin Hansen in Chillicothe.

Soybean School scheduled for Dec 12-13 in Oregon. This is an in-depth school on soybean management. Pre-registration is required with $150 payment per person to cover meals, notebooks and other resources. We will apply for CEUs for Certified Crop Advisers.

Fall management for alfalfa. The last cutting of alfalfa should allow 8-12 inches of regrowth or harvested 4-6 weeks before the killing frost to allow the root systems to store enough carbohydrates to go through winter. If you do not do this, stands are more susceptible to winter damage, slower growing in the spring and long-term yield reduction.

Fertilizer costs jump as we move into fall. Substantial increases in phosphorus fertilizer costs are being found this fall at local dealers. Also, expect higher nitrogen prices in all nitrogen products. Potash fertilizers seem to be holding the same.

Crop Removal Guidelines. Many growers apply fertilizer for both corn and soybean crops with one application. Keep in mind that both crops together remove a lot of nutrients. Corn removes 0.45 pounds P2O5 per bushel and 0.3 pounds of K2O. Soybean removes 0.84 pounds of P2O5 and 1.44 pounds of K2O per bushel. If you are not applying enough nutrients, your soil test levels will decline and so will yields.

Down corn could increase ear molds. The fungi that infect ears will grow rapidly in grain bins especially over 18% moisture. Be safe and dry grain to 15% preferably within 48 hours.

Controlling downy brome, cheatgrass and wild oats in pastures takes time. If you have cool season grasses, try to stimulate those by fertilizers so they can compete with these weeds. Use proper fertilizer timing to stimulate good grasses such as late spring, early summer timing as winter annuals mature. Clip the grassy weeds so they do not suffocate cool season grasses. Avoid over-grazing grasses which allow winter annuals to come in.

Fall herbicide application. Generally speaking, two herbicides are better than a single herbicide for fall application. The addition of 2,4-D can enhance control of those hard to control broadleaves that have some size to them.

Phosphorus and potassium fertilizers do not have to breakdown in the soil for uptake. Depending on soils, these fertilizers become fixed to the soil lessening the availability.

Well, the wondering is over. Soybean rust was confirmed 9-25-2007 on a soybean sample in Pemiscot County and a soybean sample from Scott County. Both samples were from commercial fields. In each case the incidence was low, i.e. 2-3 leaflets out of 100, and the number of pustules per leaflet was low. About 20 pustules on one of the leaflets from Pemiscot County and 2-3 pustules per leaflet on the infected leaflets in the Scott County sample. The field in Pemiscot County is not quite R6 and the field in Scott County is R6.

In addition, over the last few days soybean rust has been confirmed from a sentinel plot in Kansas, a sentinel plot in Kentucky and a site in southern Illinois as well as several more counties in Arkansas. It is likely that there will be further positive finds in Missouri and other states over the next few weeks.

Much of the soybean crop in Missouri is at R6 or later growth stage so should not be significantly impacted by soybean rust.

At this point in the season and with the positive finds at such low incidence and severity levels, fungicide applications should only be considered on fields in early reproductive stages of growth that have good yield potential and are close to areas in which soybean rust has been confirmed.

Dr. Laura Sweets will be in southwestern Missouri looking at soybean fields for the next day or two but will try to keep you updated on any new developments related to soybean rust. (Information supplied by Dr. Laura Sweets, University of Missouri Commercial Ag Plant Pathologist.)

Sentinel plots in Holt and Buchanan County are mature. Two sites that I checked had samples throughout the summer over-knighted to MU Diagnostic lab to be examined for soybean rust. I would overnight these and the results would be emailed back to me by the next afternoon. We have watched Northwest Missouri carefully and Bruce Burdick at the Hundley-Whaley farm also had a sentinel plot.

If you would like to be added to our electronic mailing list, please contact Rosa Matthews, Holt County Secretary at 660-446-3724.

Information contained in this newsletter is intended for use in Northwest Missouri and may need to be adapted to other locations. We ask that you credit University of Missouri Extension if you use this information.

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