

## Growers Should Scout for Spider Mites in Soybeans

Areas of northwest Missouri have missed rains and in those areas, we are now seeing spider mite damage in soybean. Damage by spider mites is caused by the mites piercing the cells and sucking out the cell contents. The injury produces yellow or white spots that is heaviest on the underneath side of the leaf.

As spider mites continue to grow, the injury becomes worse. Leaves progress from grayish green to yellow or brown and may even drop off. Damage can be mistaken for drought.

The pest is very hard to see and are greenish to yellow with two dark spots on their abdomen. They have eight legs not six like an insect.

Several fields have oval shaped damage in fields. These are where mites have already fed. To find live mites, move to the transition area where soybeans are not damaged. Use a hand lens or shake on a white sheet of paper. Spider mites will move further in the field by wind and cause hot spots to appear. Soybeans are moving into full pod and seed fill stages, so it is critical to scout.

There are no economic thresholds for determining when to spray. From experience, if you have damage along the field edge, spray whole field not just the edge. Chlorpyrifos and dimethoate have performed well in the past against this pest.

Bifenthrin has longer residual and is labeled. It is the only pyrethroid insecticide, which has activity. Fields may be re-infested as eggs may hatch. Re-scout fields within five days to determine if egg hatch and if populations are rebuilding.

If populations are rebuilding, switch products and mode of action. Also, a hard driving rain may reduce pest population or cause the population to crash.

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