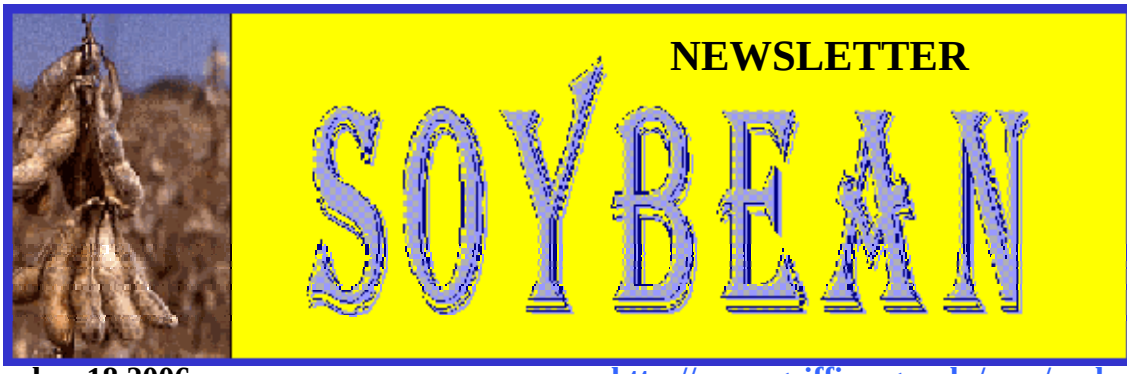
The University of Georgia
Cooperative Extension Service
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences



September 18,2006 http://www.griffin.uga.edu/caes/soybeans

ASIAN SOYBEAN RUST UPDATE (*Kemerait, Jost, Sconyers)* September has been a very active month for Asian soybean rust in both South Carolina and in Georgia. It was also announced on 15 September that soybean rust has been found in North Carolina. During this September, Dr. Layla Sconyers has identified Asian soybean rust for the first time during the field season in Seminole, Thomas, Sumter and Burke Counties. The disease is already known in at least Tift, Colquitt, and Decatur Counties. Given that Dr. John Mueller et al. are making similar finds in South Carolina, it is clear that soybean rust is finally on the advance in our area. **Note:** Our recent finds in Burke and Sumter (Plains Experiment Station) Counties are relatively small, but they indicate the disease is spreading. Soybean rust is well established in fungicide trials in Colquitt and Decatur Counties and is easily observed in unsprayed border rows.

Spray guidance: It is likely that most of the commercial soybean crop in Georgia is now in the R4 (full pod stage) and may be moving to the R5 growth stage (early seed) where seeds are ~1/8 inch in length. Once again, soybean rust was slow to develop; however the disease still has the potential to cause losses to our soybean crop.

Theoretically, the soybean crop is at risk to Asian soybean rust until it reaches R6 (full seed) growth stage. Given our current situation in Georgia, here are our management recommendations:

1. Growers who do not expect to make at least 35-40 bu/A should carefully consider whether or not there is economic benefit to applying fungicides to their crop at this point in the season.

2. For growers whose crop is from R2 (full flower) to R4 (full pod), we recommend that a fungicide application is warranted for Asian soybean rust in all but the extreme northwest corner of the state (NW Georgia should continue to monitor for rust). Growers whose crop is between R2 and R4 should use a triazole fungicide (such as Folicur, Domark, Laredo, Uppercut, etc.) or combination of triazole/strobilurin (such as Headline SBR) **if** infection has likely occurred in

their field (e.g. SW Georgia **and** they have decent yield potential. Where it is unlikely that infection is established in a field, or that infection is very low, growers can effectively use any of our labeled products for control (strobilurins, triazoles, strobilurins + triazoles). Use of chlorothalonil must be considered carefully at this point. Our data suggests that chlorothalonil products do not perform as well as other products where disease infection may have already occurred.

3. If the crop has reached the R5 growth stage in a field, the crop is still technically at-risk to soybean rust. However, given the slow spread of the disease until now, it seems unlikely that soybean rust will severely affect this crop before it reaches R6 (full seed). For growers who are concerned and wish maximum insurance against the disease, follow the spray recommendations above. However, we do not have a general spray recommendation for soybeans that have already reached the R5 stage and where rust is not yet found.

Please let us know of your questions.

Edited by: **Philip H. Jost**, Extension Agronomist-Cotton & Soybeans

Contributions by:
Philip H. Jost, Extension Agronomist-Cotton & Soybeans
Bob Kemerait, Extension Plant Pathologist
Layla Sconyers, Research Post-Doc, Plant Pathology