



Team Grains

Tracking and monitoring Soybean Rust

Asian Soybean Rust, a fungal disease has traveled north from South America and was first observed in the continental United States in 2004. While the disease is unlikely to survive Wisconsin's winters, its spores can travel rapidly on the wind, threatening Wisconsin's valuable soybean crop.

Response:

UW-Extension responded to the threat of Asian soybean rust by joining a national network designed to give an early warning to growers and to track the movement and development of rust throughout the United States. The network uses "sentinel plots" to monitor and track movement of soybean rust. This information is critical to soybean growers. It prevents fungicide applications if rust is not found in the area. If soybean rust is detected, it allows crop specialists to prepare appropriate IPM management recommendations based on environmental conditions, crop stage, and the use of preventive or curative fungicides. Soybean Rust did not appear in Wisconsin in 2005.

Outcome:

- UW-Extension staff established 21 soybean rust sentinel plots in 18 counties during the 2005 growing season.
- Extension staff monitored plots routinely and published findings on various websites including the USDA soybean rust website, <http://www.usda.gov/soybeanrust/>, and the UW Soybean Health website, <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/soyhealth/>.
- They also disseminated findings through the UW Plant Pathogen Detection Clinics toll free number, 1-866-RUST411 (1-866-787-8411).

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