

PLANT DISEASE AND INSECT ADVISORY



Entomology and Plant Pathology
Oklahoma State University
127 Noble Research Center
Stillwater, OK 74078

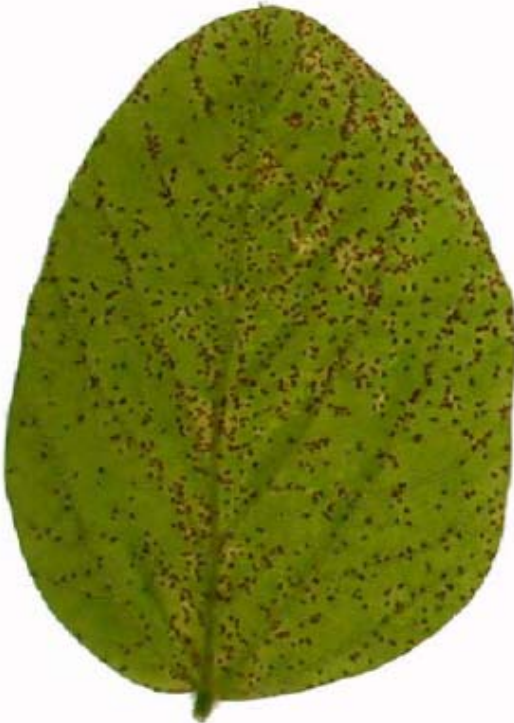


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Quiet Times on the Soybean Rust Front **John Damicone, Extension Plant Pathologist**



There is little new to report on soybean rust development in the U.S. Rust has been confirmed and continues to be active on the perennial weed kudzu in three locations in Florida. However, the disease has not been found on any legume crops or other weeds in that state. Rust was confirmed on volunteer soybeans in South Georgia about 3 weeks ago. UGA folks apparently have tried to rogue out these infected volunteers so that they would not serve as sources of rust spores. This week, there are possibly two other locations in South Georgia where volunteer soybeans have rust. These additional finds have not yet been confirmed. Rust has not been found in any sentinel plots in Georgia to date. Soybean rust has been difficult to identify on the volunteer soybeans in Georgia. Apparently, the pustules are sparse and spore production is weak. The disease does not appear to be increasing much over time on the volunteer plants where it has been found or suspected.

The sentinel plot program for monitoring soybean rust is now underway in Oklahoma and other soybean producing states. We have five locations in the state (Stillwater, Haskell, Lane, Ottawa Co, and Muskogee Co.) at which Group 3 to 5 varieties are planted. At these and other locations in the state we have not found rust. Other states have over 20 sentinel plot locations and have not reported positive finds. We will keep you posted as the season progresses. It is my feeling that it is too early in the season to predict whether or not rust will be a problem on soybeans in the US in 2005. A better picture may develop when early planted beans reach the susceptible pod-fill stages of development.

Keep Tomatoes Protected from Foliar Diseases **John Damicone, Extension Plant Pathologist**

Bacterial spot and speck, and the fungal disease Septoria leaf spot are the most important foliar diseases of tomato in Oklahoma. Dry weather has limited the development of these diseases

tomato this year. However, this is not a reason to forego keeping plants protected through a spray program. Tomatoes should be sprayed on 7-10 day intervals with copper (e.g. Kocide), either alone or in combination with mancozeb (e.g. Dithane) or chlorothalonil (e.g. Bravo or Daconil). It only takes a rain or two to set these diseases off, particularly when plants become more susceptible as fruit load increases. These materials are preventive, and must be present on the leaves during a rain event to be effective. Use the shorter spray interval during wet periods and the longer spray interval during dry periods. If dry weather persists, consider terminating the spray program about mid-way through harvest if the foliage is healthy at this point.



Dr. Richard Grantham
Director, Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostic Laboratory

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