LOUISIANA CROPS NEWSLETTER

Cotton, Corn, Soybeans, Sorghum, and Wheat

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Inside this issue:

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Dr. Ronnie Levy
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Nematode problems of soybean

By Charles Overstreet, Nematologist

Like most of the crops that are grown in Louisiana, soybean has problems with plant-parasitic nematodes. The damage is often difficult to recognize and usually blamed on something else.

There are three nematodes attributed to causing losses to soybean in Louisiana, including the soybean cyst nematode (SCN), southern root-knot nematode, and reniform nematode. Across the country and particularly in the more northern states, SCN still by far the most important nematode of soybean. However, in Louisiana this nematode which was once very common has virtually disappeared. In a recent survey of 165 soybean fields, SCN was detected in only very low levels in 1.2% of these fields. SCN is more likely to be better adapted to a more northern climate and cannot survive well under our growing conditions. It is very likely that parasites and predators of this nematode are active in our soils almost the entire year. Cold weather and particularly ground freezing in many months in a northern climate would limit the microorganisms that impact SCN.

Southern root-knot is still a big problem in our sandy soils in Louisiana. This nematode is usually found in patchy patterns in coarse textured soils. One of the most common symptoms is stunting of plants in early summer alerting producers that something may be wrong. Late season damage may still be stunting but there may be premature death of plants which greatly reduces yield in these areas. This nematode does produce distinctive galls on the root system and can easily be identified in the fields.

The third major nematode is the reniform. Reniform nematode has often been associated with cotton or sweetpotato. Both of these plants are excellent hosts for this pest. However, soybean is also considered an excellent host and populations can build up very rapidly on this plant. Reniform tends to spread rapidly throughout a field and has a more uniform distribution than most other nematodes. Although it seems to reach the highest populations in fields that are more fine-textured, the highest populations seem to occur when clay content is between 10-20% in Louisiana. This nematode is often difficult to recognize in the field because of its uniform spread may impact the entire field. The nematode can cause stunting but often plants appear normal. Yield losses of up to 40% have been reported from this nematode. Areas in a field with very high levels of reniform nematode tend to show drought stress earlier.

Most of our producers are doing a good job of rotation crops and avoiding planting soybeans in the same area each year. Although corn is one of our most important rotation crops for cotton and soybeans, it does only provide fair management of the root-knot nematode. However, corn is an excellent rotation crop against reniform nematode and one to two years of crop can drastically reduce reniform. Unfortunately, reniform nematode increases rapidly on a susceptible crop and returns to high levels in a single growing season.

Resistance to nematode is still one of the best management options. Table 1 lists a number of varieties with at least moderate resistance against either the southern root-knot or reniform nematode. Although there are a great number of varieties with SCN resistance, these varieties are not included due to the absence recognized problems in Louisiana. Unfortunately, there are only a small number of varieties with resistance against the major nematodes that we have in our state.

Table 1. Varieties of soybean which have at least moderate levels of resistance against either the southern root-knot or reniform nematode for 2014.

Reniform resistance	Root-knot resistance
Armor X1410	Armor 55R 22
Leland	Armor X1406*
MPG-S-5214NRR	Armor X1410
Rev 55R83	Halo 5:45
	Dyna Gro 39RY57

*All varieties are group 5's except Armor X1406 which is a group 4.

Many of the fields that will be planted this year are on ground where cotton was grown in the past. If reniform nematode is thought to be present or has been identified in the past, you might want to try a resistant variety. However, it is still not clear exactly how damaging reniform nematode is to soybean since there are so many varieties which vary considerably in susceptibility to this nematode.

Drought stress combined with high levels of the reniform nematode on soybean.

Severely galled soybean roots from the Southern root-knot nematode. The nematode built up to very high levels and caused severe late season damage to the soybean crop.

Stunted and stressed areas in the field from Southern root-knot nematode.

Fungicides for Managing Wheat Diseases 2014

Boyd Padgett, Trey Price, and Myra Purvis
LSU AgCenter

Fungicide Summaries

Genetic resistance to wheat pathogens is extremely effective and should be the first line of defense. In studies conducted by LSU AgCenter scientists over the past several years, fungicides were not beneficial when applied to resistant varieties. Therefore, planting resistant varieties can save producers more than $20/A by eliminating the need for a fungicide application. Producers and consultants should check the disease package of their varieties before applying a fungicide. Data can be accessed at:

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/crops/WheatOats/Variety+Trials++Recommendations/

However, genetic resistance is not bulletproof. This resistance can break down over time with pathogen populations evolving to overcome resistance. This was observed when stripe rust developed in AGS2060 (a stripe rust resistant variety). Therefore, always scout wheat beginning no later than early spring. In some cases, leaf and stripe rust can develop to very low levels in the fall. Detecting early infections will allow producers to plan for the spring.

When genetic resistance breaks down and disease is identified, a fungicide application may be needed. Typically, a single application at flag leaf emergence (F8) is adequate for managing most foliar diseases of wheat. Based on LSU AgCenter research, fungicides effective for managing leaf and stripe rust are Aproach Prima, Quilt, Stratego, Stratego YLD, Twinline or tank mixes of propiconazole (Bumper, Tilt, Propimax) and a strobilurin (Aproach, Headline, or Quadris). Propiconazole, tebuconazole (Folicur, Orius) or prothioconazole + tebuconazole (Prosaro) are also efficacious against rust as well. Strobilurins may be applied alone; however, to optimize the effectiveness of these products, they must be applied before infection by the rust pathogen. Selected results from fungicide tests are listed below.

Realize fungicides are effective against fungal diseases, but NOT effective against bacteria (black chaff) or viral diseases. Application timing and sprayer set up are just as important as the fungicide choice. Ideally, fungicides should be applied before disease onset or when disease incidence is very low. The residual activity of the fungicide may be lost too soon if applied too early. Apply too late, and disease severity may be too high to arrest disease development.

Sprayers should be configured to optimize coverage. Poor coverage of a good fungicide could result in poor disease control. Coverage is affected by gallons per acre, pressure, nozzle size, nozzle type, and nozzle spacing. Aerial fungicide applications should deliver fungicides in 4 to 5 gallons of total solution per acre and ground applications should be configured to deliver 10 to 20 gallons per acre.

Nozzles should be selected that deliver small droplets (200 to 300 microns). Nozzles configured to reduce drift potential will usually result in poor coverage. Boom height and nozzle spacing should be adjusted to the manufacturer's specifications. A boom height too high will increase the potential for drift and a boom height too low will not provide adequate overlap for the nozzles. Pressure should be adequate to force fungicide down in the canopy.

On a final note, remember that an effective disease management program will only be successful when all of the components are working together. Efforts must be made to correctly identify the diseases. Choose high-yielding, disease-resistant varieties, and make timely applications of an efficacious fungicide when necessary. For more information concerning disease management in wheat, contact your local LSU AgCenter county agent/specialist or agricultural consultant.

Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement of particular products by the LSU AgCenter is implied.

ALWAYS CONSULT LABEL BEFORE USING ANY PESTICIDE

Variety: Progeny 117
Planting Date: November 6, 2012
Application Date: F6-February 28, F8-March 9, 2013
Harvest: May 28, 2013

Fungicide Screening Trial, Dean Lee Research Station, Alexandria, LA 2013

Treatment (fl oz/A)	GS @ Appl	AUDPC % SR	Test Wt (lb/bu)	Yield (bu/a)
Nontreated Check	--	1623 a	39.9 f	72.3 g
Twinline (9.0) + NIS (0.125%)	F8	334 de	48.9 b-e	90.6 ef
Priaxor (4.0) + NIS (0.125%)	F8	603 c	44.1 def	84.2 f
Quilt Xcel (10.5) + NIS (0.125%)	F8	159 fg	48.8 cde	95.6 cde
Headline (3.0) + NIS (0.125%) Fb Twinline (9.0) + NIS (0.125%)	F6 F8	224 ef	52.1 abc	98.6 a-d
Twinline (7.5) + NIS (0.125%)	F8	366 d	49.7 bcd	93.8 de
Aproach (6.0) + NIS (0.125%)	F8	472 cd	42.6 ef	84.7 f
Aproach (3.0) + NIS (0.125%)	F6			
Aproach Prima (3.4) + NIS (0.125%)	F8	126 fgh	54.7 abc	96.0 b-e
Aproach Prima (5.0) + NIS (0.125%)	F8	54 hij	51.2 abc	98.1 a-d
Aproach Prima (6.8) + NIS (0.125%)	F8	13 jk	57.5 a	100.2 a-d
Headline (6.0)	F8	1013 b	42.6 ef	85.2 f
Prosaro (6.0)	F8	2 k	55.1 abc	103.7 a
Tukey's HSD (P=.10)	--	4.1	6.7	0.03

Variety: GACT-7
Planting Date: November 1, 2011
Harvest: May 3, 2012

Fungicide Screening Trial, Macon Ridge Research Station, Winnsboro, LA 2012

Treatment (fl oz/A)	GS @ Appl	26-Mar F, F-1 % LR	5-Apr F, F-1 % LR	11-Apr F, F-1 % LR	Test Wt (lb/bu)	Yield (bu/a)
Nontreated Check	--	0.93	53.1	99.1	54.2	67.5
Bumper (4.0)	F10.2	0.3	0.4	31.4	58.1	89.2
Aproach (6.0)	F10.2	0	0.1	72.5	57.4	91.1
Headline (6.2)	F10.2	0	0.4	32.8	59.2	96.8
Quilt Excel (10.5)	F10.2	0	0.0	17.0	57.0	96.2
Stratego (10.0)	F10.2	0	0.0	27.0	58.9	90.8
Bumper (2.0) fb Quadris (6.2)	F5F8	0	0.9	66.9	58.7	85.3
Bumper (2.0) fb Headline (6.2)	F5F8	0	0.3	36.9	58.9	93.0
Headline (6.2) fb Quilt (10.0)	F8F10.2	0	0.1	2.0	56.7	105.5
Orius (4.0)	F10.2	0	0	43.9	59.0	90.6
LSD (P=0.05)	--	0.5	4.7	14.5	2.3	7.9

Variety: AGS 2035
Planting Date: November 1, 2011
Harvest: May 3, 2012

Septoria Fungicide Test, Macon Ridge Research Station, Winnsboro, LA 2012

Treatment (fl oz/A)	GS @ Appl	11-Apr (1-9) Septoria	Test Wt (lb/bu)	Yield (bu/a)
Nontreated Check	--	83.8	56.1	69.7
Bumper (4.0)	F10.2	1.8	58.0	96.9
Prosaro (6.5)	F10.2	5.3	58.1	95.5
Twinline (9.0)	F10.2	11	57.6	102.0
LSD (P=0.05)	--	6.7	1.4	6.6

Soybean Fertility

By Ronnie Levy, Soybean Specialist, J. Stevens, Soil Specialist

Soybeans are big users of nitrogen, removing about four pounds of nitrogen per bushel. Soybeans that are poorly nodulated will have to take up most of the nitrogen they need from the soil. Since nitrogen fertilizer is generally not applied to soybeans, a crop that is poorly nodulated will quickly use up the available nitrogen in the soil and become chlorotic from nitrogen deficiency.

Soybean inoculant contains *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* bacteria. The Bradyrhizobium bacteria forms nodules on soybean roots and these nodules fix nitrogen from the atmosphere and supply it to the plants. For nitrogen fixation to occur, the nitrogen-fixing bacteria need to be readily available in the soil or must be applied to the seed or soil. When the seed germinates, the bacteria invade the root hairs of the seedling and begin to multiply forming nodules on soybean roots. Nodules, which house the bacteria, can be seen shortly after emergence but active nitrogen fixation does not begin until about the V2 stage. After this, the number of nodules formed and the amount of nitrogen fixed increase with time until about R5.5 (midway between R5 and R6), when they decrease sharply. There is a mutual benefit in the relationship between the *Bradyrhizobium* bacteria and the soybean plant. The plant, in turn, provides the bacteria's carbohydrate supply. A relationship such as this, where both bacteria and plant profit from the other, is called a symbiotic relationship.

If soybeans have been grown on the field in previous years, there may be enough Bradyrhizobium bacteria in the soil to nodulate the soybeans adequately. In that case, an inoculant may not benefit the crop. But if there is not enough Bradyrhizobium in the soil, the inoculant may increase yields by two bushels per acre or more on fields that have had soybeans in the recent past. On fields where soybeans have never been grown, the inoculant has been shown to increase yields by 10 bushels per acre or more.

Soybeans inoculation should be considered for the following circumstances:

--Where the field has not been planted to soybeans for the past three to four years or more;

--Where the soil pH is less than 5.5 or greater than 8.5;

--Where soil organic matter levels are less than one percent; and/or

--Where there has been severe drought or flooded conditions (rice rotation).

There may be several causes of poor nodulation and inoculation failure, including: poor quality inoculant; poor storage and handling; or poor seed coverage with inoculants. Most fungicide seed treatments should not harm the inoculant if applied according to directions, but be sure to check the label of the specific fungicide seed treatment to be used.

Phosphorous is critical in the early stages of soybean growth. It stimulates root growth, is essential in the storage and transfer of energy, and is an important component of several biochemicals that control plant growth and development. Phosphorus is concentrated in the seed and strongly affects seed formation. Soybeans remove about 0.8 pounds of phosphate (P_2O_5) per bushel in the harvested portion of the crop. Phosphorus deficiencies are not easily observed. Usually no striking visual symptoms indicate phosphorus deficiency in soybeans. The most common characteristics of phosphorus-deficient soybean plants are stunted growth and lower yields. Phosphorus fertilization rates should be based on soil test results. Remember soil pH affects the availability of phosphorus; it is most available to soybeans at when the soil pH is between 6.0 and 7.0.

amounts of potassium are better able to fight diseases than potassium-deficient plants. About four times as much potash (K_2O) is required by soybeans as phosphate (P_2O_5). About twice as much potash (K_2O) is removed in the seed as phosphate (P_2O_5). Soybeans remove about 1.4 pounds of potash (K_2O) in the harvested portion of the plant. Potassium deficiency symptoms are fairly easy to diagnose when they are severe enough to be seen visually. Potassium deficiency symptoms usually occur on the lower leaves. The deficiency symptom will usually occur during bloom or pod fill. The margins (edges) of the leaves are necrotic (dead and brown). Severe potassium deficiencies can greatly reduce yields. Potassium fertilizer rates should be based on soil test results.

Soil pH has a dramatic effect on the availability of native and applied plant nutrients. Availability of most plant nutrients is usually best in soils with a pH of 5.8-7.0. When the soil pH drops below 5.2 on sandy loam and silt loam soils, and below 5.0 on clay soils, manganese toxicity may occur. When the soil pH drops below 5.0, aluminum toxicity may also occur.

In extreme cases, manganese toxicity is expressed as a stunted plant with crinkled leaves. In milder cases, manganese toxicity may not show, but yield decreases will occur. Aluminum toxicity affects the roots. Roots on plants with aluminum toxicity are shorter and thicker than normal, resulting in a condition known as club root. Manganese and aluminum toxicities can be controlled by keeping the soil pH above the critical levels.

Molybdenum is a nutrient needed by soybeans in small quantities. There is enough molybdenum in our soils for optimum growth, but molybdenum is less available to plants as the soil becomes more acidic. At a pH higher than 6.2, additional molybdenum is not needed as seed treatments or fertilizer. When the soil pH is below 5.5, both lime and molybdenum are needed. The lime (enough to raise the soil pH to 5.5 or higher) is needed to eliminate the possibility of manganese and aluminum toxicities. When the soil pH is between 5.5 and 6.2, molybdenum should be used.

With the high cost of applied nutrients, having the right amount and being available are the keys to an efficient fertilization program. Don't let fertility become your limiting yield factor. Take soil samples to your local LSU AgCenter Extension Office in preparation for your crop. Reduced yields almost always cost producers more than the cost of the needed nutrients. Soil test - don't waste money or nutrients.

New Labelling Requirements to Protect Pollinators on Pesticide Labels

Sebe Brown and David Kerns: LSU AgCenter Entomologists
Kim Pope: LSU AgCenter Pesticide Safety Coordinator

Pesticide labels for the 2014 crop production season will have a new addition in the form of a bee advisory box. The box was designed to strengthen pesticide label requirements in an increased effort to protect pollinators from the potentially harmful effects of direct and indirect exposure to pesticides. Below is an example of the box taken directly from an insecticide label.

PROTECTION OF POLLINATORS

APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS EXIST FOR THIS PRODUCT BECAUSE OF RISK TO BEES AND OTHER INSECT POLLINATORS. FOLLOW APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS FOUND IN THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE TO PROTECT POLLINATORS.

Look for the bee hazard icon in the Directions for Use for each application site for specific use restrictions and instructions to protect bees and other insect pollinators.

This product can kill bees and other insect pollinators.

Bees and other insect pollinators will forage on plants when they flower, shed pollen, or produce nectar.

Bees and other insect pollinators can be exposed to this pesticide from:

- Direct contact during foliar applications, or contact with residues on plant surfaces after foliar applications
- Ingestion of residues in nectar and pollen when the pesticide is applied as a seed treatment, soil, tree injection, as well as foliar applications.

When Using This Product Take Steps To:

- Minimize exposure of this product to bees and other insect pollinators when they are foraging on pollinator attractive plants around the application site.
- Minimize drift of this product on to beehives or to off-site pollinator attractive habitat. Drift of this product onto beehives or off-site to pollinator attractive habitat can result in bee kills.

Information on protecting bees and other insect pollinators may be found at the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship website at: http://pesticidestewardship.org/PollinatorProtection/Pages/default.aspx.

Pesticide incidents (for example, bee kills) should immediately be reported to the state/tribal lead agency. For contact information for your state, go to: www.aapco.org/officials.html. Pesticide incidents should also be reported to the National Pesticide Information Center at: www.npic.orst.edu or directly to EPA at: beekill@epa.gov

Each pesticide that has the new bee box incorporated into the label has a specific set of requirements that must be met before a pesticide application is made. Below is an example of the specific set of requirements taken directly from an insecticide label.

FOR FOOD/FEED CROPS AND COMMERCIALLY GROWN ORNAMENTALS NOT UNDER CONTRACT FOR POLLINATION SERVICES BUT ARE ATTRACTIVE TO POLLINATORS

Do not apply this product while bees are foraging. Do not apply this product until flowering is complete and all petals have fallen unless one of the following conditions is met:

- The application is made to the target site after sunset
- The application is made to the target site when temperatures are below 55°F
- The application is made in accordance with a government-initiated public health response
- The application is made in accordance with an active state-administered apiary registry program where beekeepers are notified no less than 48-hours prior to the time of the planned application so that the bees can be removed, covered or otherwise protected prior to spraying
- The application is made due to an imminent threat of significant crop loss, and a documented determination consistent with an IPM plan or predetermined economic threshold is met. Every effort should be made to notify beekeepers no less than 48-hours prior to the time of the planned application so that the bees can be removed, covered or otherwise protected prior to spraying.

As stated above, the label outlines a specific condition that must be met before an application can be made to a crop not contracted for pollination services. Next, we will go through the conditions individually and outline what the requirements are for each condition.

“The application is made to the target site after sunset”. This condition entails that an application should be made after pollinators have ceased foraging. This typically happens after sunset. If a producer has the ability to make an application safely and accurately with no sunlight then that is a feasible option, however; many fields in Louisiana have dangerous obstacles that make safe applications, after sunset, nearly impossible.

“The application is made to the target site when temperatures are below 55°F”. Many insects, pollinators included, are often not active under cooler conditions. This natural behavior allows producers an interval where applications can be made while simultaneously minimizing direct pesticide exposure to pollinators. This principle may work with early season crops such as corn or wheat, however; the majority of field crops in Louisiana do not reach bloom until the summer months.

“The application is made in accordance with a government-initiated public health response”. This stipulation infers that if a governmental agency initiates an application program in the interest of public health that requires the use of pesticides potentially harmful to pollinators, then the use of those pesticides is justified.

“The application is made in accordance with an active state-administered apiary registry program where beekeepers are notified no less than 48-hours prior to the time of the planned application so that the bees can be removed, covered or otherwise protected prior to spraying”. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry requires that all apiaries be registered with their institution in Louisiana. Therefore, if a hive is in the vicinity of field that is in anticipation of an application the beekeeper must be notified, by the applicator, 48 hours prior to pesticide application. This requirement is stipulated to allow beekeepers a minimum of 48 hours to either remove or protect their hives from potentially harmful pesticide applications. However, if more time can be given to beekeepers to remove or protect their hives the better.

“The application is made due to an imminent threat of significant crop loss, and a documented determination consistent with an IPM plan or predetermined economic threshold is met. Every effort should be made to notify beekeepers no less than 48-hours prior to the time of the planned application so that the bees can be removed, covered or otherwise protected prior to spraying." This requirement states that an economic threshold must be met, in the crop anticipating an application, and every effort is made to notify beekeepers no less than 48 hours before application. This requirement highlights the need of thorough record keeping and every time an application is made, an economic threshold for the target pest must be documented. Currently, the only pesticides that have the new bee box requirements are the neonicotinoids: imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, dinotefuran and clothianidin. Yet, applicators should get in the habit of proper and thorough record keeping, including documenting economic thresholds, since the EPA has intentions of including the bee box on many more pesticides used in agriculture.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

April 16, Wheat and Oat Field Day at the Macon Ridge Research Station, Winnsboro.

April 29, Northwest Beef and Forage Field Day at the Hill Farm Research Station, Homer.

May 3, Habitat Management for White-tailed Deer at the Bob R. Jones-Idlewild Research Station, Clinton.

May 21, Fruit and Vegetable Growers Field Day at the Botanic Gardens at Burden, Baton Rouge.

June 5, Nursery Industry Open House at the Hammond Research Station, Hammond.

June 17, Northeast Research Station Pest and Crop Production Field Day, St. Joseph.

June 21, Garden Fest at the Botanic Gardens at Burden, Baton Rouge.

June 25, 105th Rice Research Station Field Day, Crowley.

July 10, Northeast Region Field Crop Tour at the Macon Ridge Research Station, Winnsboro.

July 16, Sugarcane Field Day at the Sugar Research Station, St. Gabriel.

July 17, Dean Lee Research and Extension Center Field Day, Alexandria.

Aug. 7, Sweet Potato Field Day at the Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase.

Oct. 9, Landscape Horticulture Field Day at the Hammond Research Station, Hammond.

For additional calendar information on LSU AgCenter Parish and Statewide events, visit our website at www.lsuagcenter.com/calendar

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Weeds	Corn, Grain Sorghum, Cotton. Soybeans	Daniel Stephenson	318-308-7225 (cell)	dstephenson@agcenter.lsu.edu
Asst. Integrated Pest Management, Northeast	Cotton, Corn, Soybean, Grain Sorghum	Sebe Brown	318-498-1283	sbrown@agcenter.lsu.edu
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Entomology	Soybean, Corn, Grain Sorghum, Sugarcane	Beuzelin, Julien	337-501-7087 (cell)	JBeuzelin@agcenter.lsu.edu
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