



Vol. 1 No. 5

May 5, 2008

## UPDATE ON ASIAN SOYBEAN RUST

**Dr. Bob Kemera**  
**UGA Extension Plant Pathology**  
**May 2008**

As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, many of the 2008 Soybean Rust Sentinel plots have been planted. Soybean sentinel plots have been planted in Decatur, Colquitt, Sumter, Tift, Appling, Laurens, Pulaski, Washington, Burke, and other counties. Patches of kudzu are already being scouted across the state. The soybean sentinel plots will be scouted in coming weeks. As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, NO ASIAN SOYBEAN RUST IS CURRENTLY KNOWN IN GEORGIA.

Growers should be prepared to protect their crop from Asian soybean rust as the crop enters the early pod-set growth stage, unless the disease spreads earlier in the season.

**Fungicide concerns for 2008:** According to representatives from the agrichemical industry, it is quite likely that growers will be faced with higher fungicide prices and reduced availability of fungicides this coming season. While there are a number of reasons for higher prices and reduced stocks, the bottom line for soybean growers is that they should begin planning NOW to ensure that they have the fungicides that they need to protect their crop.

From research conducted in Georgia between 2005 and 2007, it is clear that protecting a soybean crop with fungicides from Asian soybean rust is a good investment on the part of the grower. Timing the first fungicide application before rust occurs, or very soon after first infection, is critical for maximizing control of this disease.

A Section 18 “special-use exemption label” request has been submitted by the Georgia Department of Agriculture to the EPA for tebuconazole against Asian soybean rust. Tebuconazole is quite effective in the management of Asian soybean rust and is the active ingredient in Folicur and other products. We will immediately notify county agents if a Section 18 or Section 3 label is granted for tebuconazole.

## **GOOD MANAGEMENT-KEY TO SOYBEAN SUCCESS**

**John Woodruff**  
**UGA Extension Agronomist - Soybeans**  
**May 2008**

There is more current interest in Georgia soybeans than in, perhaps, the last 25 years. High current market price is the obvious reason. The current landscape is reminiscent of the 1970's when high soybean market price attracted Georgia farmers away from traditional crops to soybeans. In those days, soybean interest declined rapidly because of problems with drought, pests and management.

Can we do better this time? Your UGA Extension soybean team thinks so. Farmers are learning that soybeans can't be "stepchilded", and that the crop will respond to good management just like other crops. Several Georgia farmers, using a research verification program in the 1990's, produced average yields of 33-35 bu/A when the state average was about 25 bu/A. Their efforts showed support for using package management in growing soybeans. There have been further improvements in varieties and pest management programs since then. We still have the drought nemesis, but we are learning how to get good economic response to irrigation management. The UGA Extension soybean team has developed a comprehensive soybean production guide for growing soybeans. We have summarized it in a leaflet "Ten Steps to High Yield and Quality Soybean Production". Your efforts to update growers on these steps are much appreciated. If you have growers planning to plant soybeans who have not received the leaflet, please get them a copy. It can be found on pp 99 and 100 of the 2008 Soybean Production Guide.

## **SOYBEAN SEED SHORTAGE IMPACTING PLANTING TIME DECISIONS**

**John Woodruff**  
**UGA Extension Agronomist – Soybeans**  
**May 2008**

The seed world had no way of predicting the current soybean interest. As such, soybean seed supply, especially for high yielding, adapted varieties, is inadequate for 2008. This problem appears to be further compounded by the fact that many seed lots have only marginal seed quality.

Farmers seeking soybean seed now generally don't have a choice of deciding which variety to plant but what variety can their local dealer obtain. Many of the remaining soybean varieties in the market place are from areas outside Georgia. There is little or no available information on how they will perform in Georgia environments.

With these varieties, about the only choice farmers have is "Should I plant a soybean variety with unknown Georgia performance or some other crop?" My thoughts are "Soybean prices are good, but not good enough to assume risk for planting something with an unknown Georgia performance record." My advice is to plant soybeans with a proven track record of good performance in Georgia. If this cannot be attained, plant another crop with a proven good performance record here. Planting a variety with an unknown performance record could be a recipe for failure.

If soybean seed quality is marginal, special planting time efforts will be needed to help insure success (see last month's article on "Soybean Planting Time Advice.") Paramount to getting good stands with marginal quality seed will be planting in a favorable soil environment and increasing seeding rate to help compensate for reduced germination.

Some of the soybean varieties still available for sale are high yielding adapted varieties but lack southern root knot nematode resistance. In many Coastal Plain fields it would be advisable to use an in furrow nematicide such as Timik with these varieties. See the 2008 Georgia Soybean Plain Production Guide for guidelines in using soil nematicides.

**TWIN ROW PLANTING  
ONE WAY OF HELPING GET BENEFITS OF CLOSE ROWS**

**John Woodruff  
UGA Extension Agronomist – Soybeans  
May 2008**

One way of increasing soybean yield is to plant in close row spacing (30" or less) if soil compaction can be managed. Most Georgia farmers manage soil compaction with in-row subsoiling. Tillage units for this effort are usually designed for 36"-38" rows. Most of these units are not designed for planting in more narrow rows.

Many Georgia farmers use twin-row planters to get the benefits of close-rows for peanuts. These same planters can be used to get the benefits of close row planting for soybeans. Special soybean planter plates would be needed, and the planters would need to be set to drop about six soybean seed per foot for each twin row unit. Going to twin rows or close rows (where soil compaction is reduced) should increase soybean yields 5-10%. Expect the yield benefits to be highest for early maturing soybean varieties and/or late plantings.

## PREFIX NOW LABELED FOR POST USE IN SOYBEANS

**Dr. Eric Prostko**  
**UGA Extension Agronomist - Weed Science**  
**May 2008**

There has been much interest in the herbicide sold under the trade name of **Prefix**. Prefix is a combination of Reflex (fomesfaen) + Dual Magnum (*S*-metolachlor) and is marketed by Syngenta. Recently, Syngenta received a supplemental label that would allow Prefix to be used postemergence in soybeans. Prefix is also labeled for PPI and PRE applications. The normal use rate of Prefix is 2 pt/A which would provide the equivalent of 15.2 oz/A of Reflex and 18.2 oz/A of Dual Magnum. When Prefix is applied POST, a NIS @ 0.25% v/v (1 qt/100 gallons) should be included. Prefix can be applied up until 90 days before soybean harvest. Most of my research with Prefix has been with PRE applications which have provided very good control of Palmer amaranth. POST applications of this herbicide should be made before Palmer amaranth and other weeds exceed 2-3" in height. Since Reflex is closely related to Ultra Blazer and Cobra, expect to see soybean injury in the form of leaf bronzing or burning (Figure 1.) A copy of the full and supplemental labels of Prefix can be obtained from the following web addresses:

Full label: <http://www.cdms.net/LDat/ld8CB000.pdf>

Supplemental label: <http://www.cdms.net/LDat/ld8CB002.pdf>



**Figure 1. Soybean injury caused by diphenylether herbicides such as Cobra, Reflex, or Ultra Blazer.**