Update on Soybean Rust in Iowa

Daren S. Mueller
Iowa State University, dsmuelle@iastate.edu
Update on Soybean Rust in Iowa

Abstract
Similar to the past several years, soybean rust was not a threat for Iowa soybean growers. This year did have a couple of interesting developments; neither affecting Iowa soybeans, however. First, soybean rust was found in nearly 575 counties, including most (or all) of the counties in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Soybean rust was found in 16 states; the furthest north was in Illinois. This is the most counties with rust to date. As a comparison, soybean rust was found in 392 counties in 2008.

Keywords
RFR A9028, Plant Pathology

Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Plant Pathology

This northwest and allee research and demonstration farm is available at Iowa State University Digital Repository:
http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/farms_reports/425
Update on Soybean Rust in Iowa

RFR-A9028

Daren Mueller, extension specialist
Department of Plant Pathology

Introduction
Similar to the past several years, soybean rust was not a threat for Iowa soybean growers. This year did have a couple of interesting developments; neither affecting Iowa soybeans, however.

First, soybean rust was found in nearly 575 counties, including most (or all) of the counties in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Soybean rust was found in 16 states; the furthest north was in Illinois. This is the most counties with rust to date. As a comparison, soybean rust was found in 392 counties in 2008.

The second development was that soybean rust finally established early enough in some states to require management. Soybean rust still has not caused yield loss in any Midwestern state. With the widespread movement of soybean rust in 2009 throughout the Southeast, we will be keeping an eye on how well the pathogen overwinters.

Materials and Methods
Sentinel plots continue to be an important tool for early detection of soybean rust in many states, including Iowa. A key advantage for sentinel plots is the commitment of Iowa State University staff to carefully scout these plots in hopes of identifying soybean rust very early in its establishment. In 2009, 14 sentinel plots were established across the state, many on research and demonstration farms. These plots were scouted biweekly or weekly throughout the season.

Results and Discussion
Soybean rust was not found in Iowa, but knowing if soybean rust was here or not helps growers make informed management decisions, especially concerning foliar fungicides. The contributions of the research farms in monitoring for soybean rust are appreciated.

Acknowledgements
This work was supported in part by soybean checkoff funds from the North Central Soybean Research Program.
Figure 1. Counties where soybean rust was found in the United States during 2009.