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Using fungicides effectively

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Abstract

For a fungicide to be effective, three rules must be followed:

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Using fungicides effectively

by Alison Robertson, Department of Plant Pathology

For a fungicide to be effective, three rules must be followed:

1. Select the correct type of fungicide (see "Understanding the fungicides used to treat Asian soybean rust").

2. Correct timing of the application. There are two common mistakes:

Applying fungicides too early can result in the fungicide wearing off before infection occurs.

Spraying too late can result in disease development beyond the point where the fungicide is effective.

Both mistakes result in poor disease control and are of little economic benefit.

3. Ensure thorough coverage of the entire soybean plant canopy (see "Spray equipment considerations for foliar fungicide application on soybeans," page 25–26).

Alison Robertson is an assistant professor of plant pathology with extension and research responsibilities in field and forage crops.

Plant Diseases

Thinking about spraying fungicides? Are you certified? Do you need to be?

by Kristine Schaefer, Department of Agronomy

With the confirmation of soybean rust in the United States and the possibility that it could be present in Iowa in 2005, there are questions regarding the necessary pesticide applicator certifications needed to apply fungicides. The requirements for certification vary depending on whether you are a Private Pesticide Applicator or a Commercial Pesticide Applicator.

Private Applicators

Fungicides currently labeled (either supplemental Section 18 or full Section 3 labels) for soybean rust are not Restricted Use products. Private applicators will not need Private Pesticide Applicator certification to buy or apply these General Use fungicides. Private applicators are defined as persons who apply Restricted Use pesticides on property owned or rented by themselves or their employers, or on the property of other agricultural producers with whom they trade services.

Commercial Applicators

Commercial Pesticide Applicators will need to be certified in Category 1C – Agricultural Crop Disease Management to apply fungicides to soybeans. Commercial Pesticide Applicators are defined as persons who apply pesticides for hire on property other than their own.

It is important for everyone to read and follow directions on the fungicide labels. Some fungicide products require specific personal protective equipment (PPE) not typically required. Fungicides that are labeled or have labels pending for soybean rust control and required personal protective equipment, restricted entry intervals (REI), pre-harvest intervals, and additional precautionary statements are listed in Table 1.

Additional information concerning pesticide applicator training and certification can be found on the ISU Pest Management and the Environment Web site at **www.extension.iastate.edu/PME**.

Kristine Schaefer is an extension program specialist in agronomy with responsibilities in weed science and pest management and the environment.