

# Concerns for late-planted soybeans

Rich Keller, Editor | July 13, 2011

This year's weather has made growing a late planted soybean crop a lot like growing a double crop of soybeans, which would normally be planted after wheat is harvested in the lower Midwest. A lot of soybeans went into the ground during June, especially in parts of Indiana and Ohio. Helping farmers produce the best yield possible started with planning between ag retailer agronomists or crop consultants and their client customers. The first recommendations in many situations were to plant narrow-row or solid-seeded beans and use insecticide and fungicide seed treatments.

Now that it is July, late-season management practices are important to protect yield. Scouting soybean fields during the remainder of the summer and early fall for both insects and diseases is a must do. Foliar fertilizing, especially to deliver potassium, might be a discussion point between consultants/agronomists and farmers, too.

## Major insect possibilities

Typically, aphids can show up as a problem from early vegetative stage to past the R3 stage. Soybeans planted late have a tendency to grow smaller and slower. Mike Staton, Michigan State University Extension, warned growers with the comment, "Late-planted soybeans are more susceptible to injury from aphid feeding as they will have less leaf area and root growth than soybeans planted earlier in the season."

Bean leaf beetles can be a problem, but the risk is often related to the winter mortality because a harsh winter can lower the original beetle emergence and limit the volume of beetles that reproduce before reaching an economic threshold. Starting populations vary widely across the Northeast and Midwest soybean production areas each year.

Stink bugs have been developing as a problem in soybeans fields late in the year. Consultants and agronomists need to stay vigilant to avoid populations from catching their growers off guard and resulting in economic damage.

## Diseases are a question

As for diseases in late planted soybeans, if soybeans were planted on previous soybean fields because the weather didn't allow a bean/corn rotation, disease potential is especially high. The biggest worry, according to Ohio State University Extension, is soybean cyst nematode (SCN) and frogeye leaf spot. Hopefully, those early decisions between growers, consultants/agronomists included finding varieties with lower susceptibility to both pathogens.

Will this be the year that soybean rust finally causes problems in the Midwest is still a question. Kiersten Wise, Purdue University, assistant professor of plant pathology, wrote about rust in the "Pest & Crop" newsletter in June. Are there large amounts of rust spores, how far north will spores be blown and how early in the growing season might it occur? Wise noted, "Soybean rust has been slow to develop in the U.S. in 2011 due to drought conditions in most southern states." There was a low amount of diseased kudzu that served as a source of spores for soybean infection.

“Since soybean rust was first discovered in the U.S. in 2004, Indiana and much of the Midwest have been spared from soybean rust outbreaks that could result in yield loss due to the late northward movement and development of the disease,” she explained.

**Decisions based on facts**

When rust has been discovered as far north as Iowa, it has always been too late in the season to have an impact on yield because the beans were already into dry down. This year’s late planted beans could still be green if soybean rust blows in. Tracking of soybean rust throughout the nation can be tracked by checking the ipmPIPE Web site: [www.sbrusa.net](http://www.sbrusa.net).

Insecticide and fungicide options to use alone or in conjunction with each other are available from many manufacturers, and consultants/agronomists need to have made decisions for recommending specific products for specific situations.