



Arkansas Soybean Rust Working Group Update



June 24, 2005

Issue No. 5

No ASR reported in Arkansas

The recent report of 3 spores that resemble Asian Soybean Rust spores found on a slide from a spore trap in Northeast Louisiana has caused considerable alarm among Arkansas soybean farmers – many already beset by one of the worst droughts in recent memory.

Until Asian Soybean Rust is actually confirmed on plants outside of Florida or Georgia – which has not yet occurred – farmers should not panic and **they should not start spraying**.

Scientists with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, as well as County Extension Agents and First Detectors, have been on constant lookout for Asian Soybean Rust all spring and summer. **No Asian Soybean Rust has been found to date, nor have any suspect spores been found in Arkansas spore traps.**

Careful ASR monitoring continues

The report from Louisiana does mean that our network of field monitors and sentinel plot scouts will focus strongly on southeast Arkansas, just in case, but this was already being done because of more favorable weather there for both soybean growth and potential disease development.

According to Cliff Coker, Extension Plant Pathologist, “We bumped up our scouting efforts to three times per week in the Southeastern portion of the state, incubate all collected leaflets for at least 48 hours, and examine each leaf with the stereomicroscope.” To date, no suspect samples have been observed.

In east central and northeast Arkansas, where the drought is worse, scouting also continues; however, current and forecast weather conditions certainly do not currently favor foliar disease development of any kind.

Remember, South America is successfully dealing with this disease annually by using sentinel plots and weather stations. Arkansas has followed this same model. 33 soybean sentinel plots and 6 weather stations are currently being monitored for conditions that favor Asian Soybean Rust. For more information, please see the following website:

<http://www.aragriculture.org/cropsoilwtr/soybeans/Rust/default.asp>

Our advice is to wait and stay alert. We will certainly let everyone know when and if Asian Soybean Rust is confirmed outside of Florida and Georgia and the potential implications to the Arkansas soybean crop.

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