

Virginia Soybean Update

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Dear Reader,

Rainfall can solve lots of problems and create others. In the Midwest, excessive rains have caused flooding of towns and fields. In some parts of Virginia, severe hail damage occurred with last Sunday night's rains. But, in general, the rain was welcome relief to our crops that just spent the last few weeks without rain and in scorching temperatures.

Other than the obvious, the rain has allowed double-crop soybean planting to proceed and should help with the thrips problem that seemingly gets worse every year.

Timely planting is extremely important with double-crop soybean. We're losing yield with every delay in planting.

Our thrips thresholds require three conditions to be met: 1) 75% of the leaflets are damaged, 2), numerous thrips are present (more than 8 per leaflet), and 3) the plants are under stress. We were definitely meeting all three conditions last week. Now, the soybean should outgrow any damage.

I remind everyone of the upcoming Virginia Ag Expo at the Billy Bain farm in Dinwiddie County on Aug. 14. This year, in addition to corn and soybean, we'll highlight cotton, peanut, tobacco, forages, and pumpkins. See the notice and registration form in this newsletter.

Extension Soybean Specialist

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Plant As Soon As Possible For Maximum Double-Crop Yields

Early planting and good stands are the foundation of high double-crop soybean yields. Small grain harvest is a little early this year and the recent dry weather has been good for test weight. Good wheat and soybean yields plus high prices can make the wheat/soybean cropping system the most profitable in Virginia.

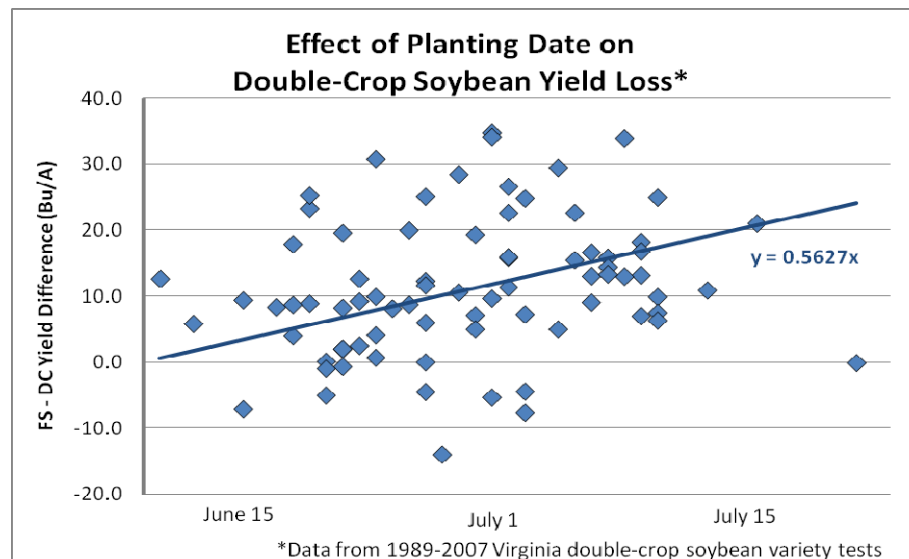
With the recent rains, it's important that we forge ahead with soybean planting. We are now losing about 1/2 bushel per acre per day with every day delay in planting. This is shown in the figure below, which was developed from soybean variety testing data. Each point on the graph represents the difference between full-season yields and double-crop yields at a specific location. With earlier planting, double-crop yields do not lag very far behind full-season yields..

This is not to say that double-crop yields will always be less than full-season yields. Rainfall during pod and seed development is most important. In 2007 for example, double-crop yields were higher than full-season yields in 2 of 4 locations. But, how many of us really want to relive 2007?

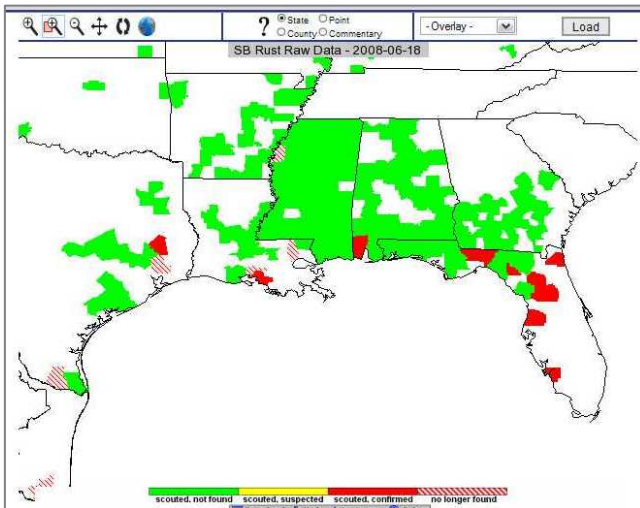
For those of you that didn't get rain,

planting into dry soils is OK, but only if the soil is completely dry. If the soil has enough moisture to swell but not germinate the seed, the seed may die. If the soil has enough moisture to initiate germination, but not enough to send a root into soil moisture, it will definitely die. Considering the cost of seed, my suggestion is not to plant into these dry soils; wait for a rain. Only if you are sure that there is absolutely no soil moisture in the field and you have hundreds (or thousands) of acres to plant, would I suggest planting into dry soils. At \$40 per bag, we don't want to waste any seed.

Keep in mind that my seeding rate recommendation for double-crop soybeans is to plant enough seed to insure a final plant population of 180,000 plants per acre. Assuming 80% emergence, that's 225,000 seed per acre (~75 lbs of seed). Do not attempt to lower seeding rates in double-crop settings. Furthermore, if planting moves into July, we'll need to increase that seeding rate to 250,000 seed per acre. On droughty soils and July planting, yield increases will take place up to nearly 275,000 seed per acre.



Soybean Rust Update



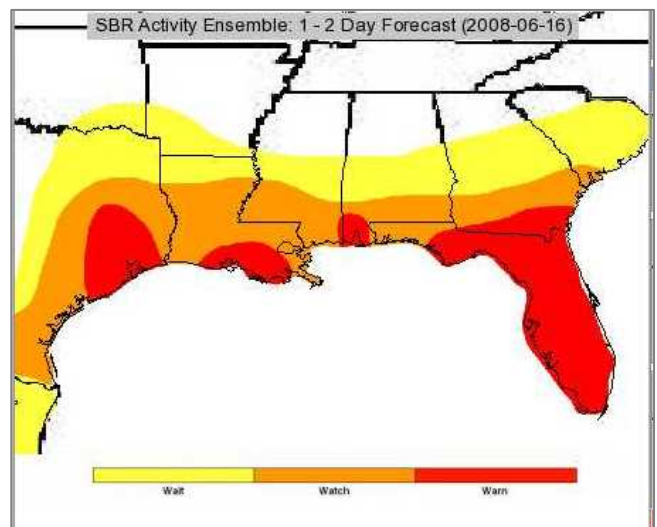
Soybean rust seems to be behaving as usual. Although it has been detected on kudzu in the deep South, it has yet to begin its move north. The sentinel plot network is in place and has proven to work well. We have 10 small sentinel plots planted, which include 3 maturity groups of soybeans. Sampling of our plots should begin within the next two weeks. In addition, with funding from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, we will again be scouting commercial soybean fields throughout Virginia.

The following is the commentary from the USDA PIPE website:

United States Soybean Rust Commentary (updated: 06/16/08). There have been no new reports of soybean rust since it was last detected on kudzu in Leon County, Florida on June 9th. Since the beginning of 2008, soybean rust has been reported on kudzu in one county in Alabama; ten counties in Florida (two of these counties had reports on coral bean and snap bean); three counties in Louisiana; one county in Mississippi, and three counties in Texas. Reported infected kudzu sites in many counties have been destroyed. Rust was also reported in three states (5 municipalities) in Mexico on yam bean and soybean. These too have been destroyed or are no longer active, except for the recent find in Chiapas.

Although soybean rust movement is slow at the present, we know that the disease can quickly move up the east coast. Therefore, we'll continue to keep a close eye on the states to our south. Like all other diseases, the disease triangle is in effect – we must have 1) a suitable host, 2) the disease, and 3) the necessary environmental conditions. Without any one of these conditions, there will not be an outbreak. We now have a suitable host growing, but we've found that the host must be in the R1 stage (flowering) or later for the disease to rapidly progress. We do not have the disease – yet. Optimum environmental conditions necessary are 60-80 degrees F, high humidity, and a day or so of cloud cover.

Below is the current predicted activity of soybean rust in the U.S. We as specialists use such a model and several others to guide us in our recommendations.



We'll keep you informed. For the latest updates, go to the following web sites:

<http://www.ppws.vt.edu/ipm/soybeanrust/index.htm>

<http://sbr.ipmpipe.org>

We will also have a phone hotline setup at the Tidewater AREC later this summer. You will be able to access it at 757-657-6450 ext. 425.

2008 Virginia Ag Expo

“Celebrating Virginia’s Agricultural Diversity”

**August 14, 2008
7:30 AM to 3:00 PM**

The Virginia Ag Expo is the largest field day event held annually in the Commonwealth of Virginia and is an educational, marketing and social event that farmers look forward to every year. This year the AG EXPO will be held in Dinwiddie County. The location is Billy Bain Farms owned and operated by our host, Billy Bain. Billy has a large diversified farming operation consisting of corn, soybeans, wheat, peanuts, forage and a beef cattle herd.

Growers will have an opportunity to view the 2008 Virginia On-Farm Corn and Soybean Test Plots. There will be corn and soybean seeding rate, weed control, seed treatment, fungicide, fertilizer, row spacing and tillage plots. In keeping with the diversity of this part of the state there will be demo plots of peanuts, cotton, tobacco, forages and pumpkins. Participants will be able to go from exhibit to exhibit and visit with the various exhibitors at their own pace.

Companies will display their products and services under a large exhibit tent. The latest in farm equipment and related products will be on display in a large outdoor area.

There is a \$10.00 registration fee for a traditional a Bar-B-Q lunch served with all the trimmings and beverages. There will be a limited number of lunch tickets (100) available on the day of the Ag Expo for \$13.00. Fill out the attached form and mail it to the address on the form along with payment for the number of tickets you are requesting. Your lunch tickets may be picked up at the registration tent on the day of the Ag Expo.

We look forward to seeing you this year at the Virginia Ag Expo.

The 2008 Virginia Ag Expo is a joint project of the Virginia Grain Producers Association, the Virginia Soybean Association and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service.

2008 VIRGINIA AG-EXPO
“CELEBRATING VIRGINIA’S AGRICULTURAL DIVERSITY”
 Billy Bain Farms
 Dinwiddie, VA
 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM August 14, 2008

Registration Form
 (List all attendees)

Name: _____

Farm/Business/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

PRE-REGISTRATION ADMITTANCE \$10.00 – ON SITE REGISTRATION \$13.00
 *A limited number of lunch tickets (100) will be available on site for \$13.00 per person
 (Children 12 years old and under free, but must pre-register)
 Registration includes admission, Bar-B-Q lunch, Snow Cones and Beverages

Number of Adult Tickets Requested _____ X \$10.00 Total Enclosed \$_____

Please list names of all who will attend, in addition to you. Identify those 12 years old or younger.

Continue on additional sheet if necessary.

Make Check Payable to Virginia Ag-Expo

Mail form and check to: Virginia Ag-Expo, 17000 Sandy Point Road, Charles City, Va. 23030

Pre-registration Deadline – August 6, 2008

Pick up your tickets at the registration tent on the day of the Ag-Expo

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