



# DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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**To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors**

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## **Delaware and Maryland Departments of Agriculture Soybean Rust Update Farmers Urged to Remain Vigilant, Fungicide Approvals in Place**

Soybean rust has now been reported on soybeans in the following locations: Baldwin County in Alabama, Marion County in Florida (6/29) and Seminole County in Georgia. The Alabama and Florida finds were in sentinel sites, while the Georgia find was on volunteer soybeans which have since been destroyed. Seven counties in Florida have now reported soybean rust on kudzu, the latest find was in Gadsden county on July 5th which is adjacent to Leon County in Northern Florida. There is a possible detection of spores in Kentucky following the remnants of Hurricane Dennis. Intensive scouting is continuing throughout eastern North America from the Gulf coast to southern Ontario wherever soybean is grown with no new finds.

Several fungicides have been approved for use against soybean rust. Some are to be applied prior to disease detection to help prevent disease development while others have some curative qualities, to help check the disease after it has already infected the plant. While it is the grower's decision as to when to begin application of these fungicides, the Delaware and Maryland Departments of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Services recommend that applications of the preventative products not begin until there is a reasonable threat of the disease in this area.

Prudent use of these fungicides is important for several reasons. First, the number of applications that can legally be applied to soybeans is limited. Therefore, every application needs to count. Second, just like with any other pesticide, unnecessary use needlessly increases pesticide levels in the environment and can encourage resistance development; shortening the useful life of the product. Third, fungicides can be expensive.

There are several web sites devoted to providing soybean rust information. Topics such as disease tracking, scouting, identification, control options and contact information can be found at these sites. The information provided at these sites can help growers make informed decisions regarding fungicide applications. Some useful soybean rust web sites include:

[http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/mc\\_home.asp](http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/mc_home.asp)

<http://www.sbrusa.net>

<http://www.usda.gov/soybeanrust>

[http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/csb\\_page/updates/soybean\\_rust.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/csb_page/updates/soybean_rust.htm)

<http://ag.udel.edu/extension/information/pdc/PDCsoybeanrust.htm>

[http://www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/soybean\\_rust.php](http://www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/soybean_rust.php)

In addition to these web sites, growers can also obtain information from their local extension office.

Also, farmers with crop insurance are encouraged to talk with their crop insurance agent to fully understand their responsibilities if Asian soybean rust impacts in the state.

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