June 30, 2023

Crop Connections Subscriber:

Good Friday morning! In this week’s updates, I wanted to share information on three ‘happenings’ over the past week.

**Tar Spot Returns Early**
Last year’s Tar Spot discovery came so late in the season and seemingly affected yields so little that in most cases, it was a non-issue. This year’s discovery may be a non-issue as well, but finding Tar Spot before/at VT certainly increases the possibility it could become an issue, particularly for a disease that can see multiple infection cycles through the growing season.

For more information, check out K-State Research & Extension Plant Pathologist Rodrigo Onofre’s thoughts on the disease and what we can expect in the most recent KSU Agronomy eUpdate: [https://eupdate.agronomy.ksu.edu/article_new/tar-spot-of-corn-has-arrived-in-kansas-this-season-551-1](https://eupdate.agronomy.ksu.edu/article_new/tar-spot-of-corn-has-arrived-in-kansas-this-season-551-1) (sign up if you’re not a subscriber!). University of Missouri Plant Pathologist Mandy Bish also had a nice article earlier this spring I think deserves a read: [https://ipm.missouri.edu/cropPest/2023/3/tarSpot-MB/](https://ipm.missouri.edu/cropPest/2023/3/tarSpot-MB/).

The immediate take home message is to scout and make fungicide decisions accordingly. This year’s disease pressure (fields scouted across the District through yesterday showed very light disease pressure with Southern Rust only as close as Louisiana and Tar Spot limited thus far to Doniphan County) may allow fungicide applications to be delayed, but scouting will be important to keep Tar Spot from getting ahead of us. If you find suspicious lesions, don’t hesitate to contact any of our [District Offices](https://www.meadowlark.ksu.edu/districtOffices) or the KSU Plant Pathology Lab to help with confirmation. You can also follow the spread of disease via monitoring websites like the [Corn ipmPIPE network](https://www.ipmPIPE.org) (good for both Tar Spot and Southern Rust) to aid with fungicide timing decisions.

**Wind Damage to Corn**
Yesterday’s storm across the northern reaches of the District resulted in varying degrees of wind damage to the corn crop. This article dives in to what to expect: [https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/newsletters/pestandcrop/article/flattened-corn-caused-by-wind-damage-now-what/](https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/newsletters/pestandcrop/article/flattened-corn-caused-by-wind-damage-now-what/). Patience, as hard as that may be, is the key at this point. More will likely be known after the Independence Day weekend.

Speaking of Independence Day, I hope you all have a safe and happy one and that the predicted moisture and cooler temperatures come to fruition. If you wish to unsubscribe to this newsletter, please reply UNSUBSCRIBE and I’ll get you removed. Thank you for reading!
Soybean Gall Midge Found in Kansas
Monitoring for Soybean Gall Midge (SGM) in Kansas has been conducted the past two growing seasons, with nothing found, but 2023 will be a different story with SGM found in two sites along the Nebraska border (one in MS Co.; one in NM Co.) over the past week. Neither site appeared to have significant infestations and additional monitoring to determine how widespread this pest might be will occur in the next couple of weeks. As it does, we’ll have a better idea as to how far and wide SGM may have spread, but at this point, noticeable damage has been limited. For a good ‘first read’ on SGM, see this week’s KSU Agronomy eUpdate:  https://eupdate.agronomy.ksu.edu/article_new/soybean-gall-midge-detected-in-kansas-be-on-the-lookout-551-7  . IF you suspect SGM might be an issue, please let me know. I will be working with KSU Entomologists to do monitoring in mid-July and knowing potential hot spots is always a help.

Sincerely,

David G. Hallauer

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