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Managing Fungicides to Combat Resistance

As summer field crops continue to develop, disease management becomes a greater concern. Southern rust was reported in corn just last week in northeast Louisiana. Does that mean it's imminent? Nope. Does it mean we need to be on the lookout? Absolutely.

Part of being on the lookout for a disease often means planning ahead for a potential fungicide application. While we may see southern rust in northeast Kansas this summer, there's certainly a possibility we won't as well. That's why disease trackers like the Pest Information Pipeline for Extension and Education (corn link: <https://corn.ipmpipe.org/>) are so important. They not only tell us what might be coming, but what might not get here as well. That's a big help when it comes to making an economic decision like applying a fungicide. It can also be a big help towards helping reduce fungicide use that can contribute to disease.

Now is a great time to initiate disease scouting, particularly in corn. Much of the corn crop is in the 10 to 14 leaf stage, meaning we could be flowering in as little as two weeks. Don't know what that lesion on the leaf might be? Check out *Diagnosing Corn Production Problems in Kansas* (<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/S54.pdf>). I have a handful of copies as well. E-mail me if you are interested at dhallaue@ksu.edu. Next week: fungicide resistance?

Squash Bugs

Time for my annual 'heads up' on one of our most hated garden insect pests: squash bugs. Remember what they look like? Grey, with a hard, shield-shaped back. They feed on squash and pumpkin plants, resulting in unhealthy plants and loss of production. By the time you notice the adults, they are almost impossible to control. That means it's time to scout.

First-generation eggs and nymphs may be present now; with the second generation, they often create the one that wreaks havoc on squash family plants. Identification/control are key.

Squash bug eggs are brick-red in color. The nymph stage will be a small green insect with black legs. Both will be found on the backside of the leaves.

Implementing a control program now can be a huge deterrent to bigger problems later. Insecticides must come in direct contact with the insect to be effective, meaning you must spray/dust the underside of the leaves. Products like permethrin, malathion, and methoxychlor provide control if a direct application is made to young, soft-bodied squash bugs.

Want more information about squash bugs control? Check out our *Squash Bugs* publication available at <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3308.pdf> or by request from District Offices. A list of common homeowner products is also available upon request.