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Soybean Seed Treatments

As the popularity of early planted soybeans has increased, so, should our knowledge of soybean seed treatments. A soybean that emerges quickly and gets growing generally tolerates disease/insect pressure better than one sitting in cold, damp soils (if it survives – will it thrive?). Soybean seed treatments may help in those cooler, damper conditions, but there are limits.

Annual losses to soybean seedling diseases or seed rots is estimated at around two bushels per acre. Pythium, Rhizoctonia, and Fusarium are the primary culprits (field history and post planting conditions can be *huge* factors...). A look at a seed tag can give you the treatment, but you may have to dig a little to determine whether the treatment fits the disease you're facing. (example: metalaxyl and mefenoxam are active against Pythium/Phytophthora, but not Fusarium or Rhizoctonia). While you're looking, check out product rates. Fields with a history of Phytophthora, for example, may require higher rates of a seed treatment to be effective. Seed treatments typically provide *some* level of protection against disease for approximately three weeks after planting, with contact fungicides having shorter residuals than systemic products.

Make plans for scouting as well. Plant stand issues aren't always disease related (compaction, excess residue, and planting depth issues come to mind...). To help delineate between disease issues – or something else, check out this helpful reference from the Crop Protection Network: <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/resources/publications/seedling-diseases> . With luck, maybe it will help reduce that two bushel per acre average seedling disease loss.

Disease/Insect Management Ideas for Apple Trees

Apples are one of the most popular fruit crops in Kansas – and one of the most likely to see disease or insect damage. Consider these practices if 'damage free' apples are your desire.

A great first step is disease resistance. When planting new trees, consider species with resistance to cedar apple rust and scab. See a list here: <https://extension.missouri.edu/g6022> .

If growing susceptible varieties, fungicide sprays in April/May are critical starting when leaves appear. One widely available active ingredient to consider for early diseases in April/May is myclobutanil. It comes in numerous formulations (make sure they are labeled for fruit trees) and needs applied every week to 10 days to get the protective chemical layer needed to 'cover' newly developed leaves/fruit. Later in the summer, mix things up with other active ingredients.

Insecticides after petal drop (do NOT use insecticides during bloom) are important as well to prevent wormy apples from codling moth. Multiple homeowner products are available, but read the label to ensure you know how many times they can be applied during any one year.

An organic insecticide with trade name Cyd-X is also labeled but will control only codling moth.

Add a spreader-sticker to improve pest control product retention on leaves/fruit. Hard, driving rains of an inch or more can wash chemicals from plants, requiring another application. Feel free to e-mail me for a full spray schedule. *Always* read and follow label directions.

Want an alternative pest control option? Try bagging. Commercial bags can be purchased or you can make your own. Either is a good option if you're willing to spend a little time to protect individual fruit from insect/disease pressure. Check out the steps for bagging apples at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbbmgJ5F1wc> .