“LOOK LOW AS YOU GO” – A Plan For Scouting Fields and Submitting Samples For Soybean Rust Diagnosis

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• While in soybean fields, carefully look at the lower quarter of soybean plants in addition to “top growth”; be sure to examine undersides of leaves
• If you see something that looks “suspect” for soybean rust – follow this simple protocol
  ➢ Collect 20 leaflets with suspect symptoms.
    ▪ Leaflets should be flat, dry, and placed between dry paper toweling.
    ▪ Leaflets should be packaged in two layers in zip lock plastic bags.
    ▪ The bags should be clearly labeled with a permanent marker providing: date, host plant, collector’s name, phone number, collection location within the field, location of the field, county, township & section, and nearest intersection. GPS information is helpful if available.
  ➢ Immediately submit samples to the University of Illinois’ Distance Diagnostics through Digital Imaging (DDDI) system. If the sample cannot be immediately shipped, keep refrigerated until shipment to reduce plant deterioration.
    ▪ DDDI sites are maintained at your local/primary extension unit office.
    ▪ The results of your soybean rust prescreening via DDDI should be available within a few hours.
    ▪ If the DDDI prescreening appears suspect, your plant sample will be submitted via overnight mail to the U of I Plant Clinic. (Note: The office submitting the sample by mail must make sure that the seams of the box are taped shut)
  ➢ Following confirmation of soybean rust in your area, scout soybean fields using the same protocol and sample submission procedures. Consider evaluating 5 plants in each of 20 locations within a field. If soybean rust is detected and confirmed, fungicides should generally be applied as soon as possible.
EXAMPLES OF SOYBEAN RUST INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

- Information on soybean rust (and other soybean diseases) from the Plant Health Initiative - http://www.planthealth.info/
- Article on the risks of soybean rust from Iowa State University - http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2004/6-7-2004/

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