

# Mid-Month Thoughts

## Row Crops

### Disease

Disease threat for what I have walked has been very low in all Row Crops.

Corn for the most part will outrun any chance of Southern Rust. Unless your corn is just now silking.

Other than Sheath Blight I have not seen may issues in Rice so far. Remember to refer to MP154 for optimum timing from Blast, Smut applications. Smut usually comes down to field history when deciding on an application.

- <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/publications/mp-154.aspx>

### Fungicide Timing for Southern Rust

Beginning Corn Growth Stage	Southern Rust in the Field	Weather Forecast Favors Southern Rust	Benefit from a Fungicide
VT- Vegetative Tassel	Yes	Yes	Yes
R1- Silk	Yes	Yes	Yes
R2- Blister	Yes	Yes	Yes
R3- Milk	Yes	Yes	Yes
R4- Dough	Yes	Yes	Unlikely
R5- Dent	Yes	Yes	No
R6- Maturity	Yes	Yes	No

[See July 2022 row crop southern rust post](#)

### Insects

I am currently very concerned about the insect population I am seeing in some fields. Beneficials levels are also elevated so in most cases things have been kept in check.

I would highly recommend saving money on earlier crops that have or will outrun most insect issues and focus on later planted crops specifically soybeans that are just now flowering or still have not flowered. These will be the soybeans that get hammered as corn begins to dry down.

If you are seeing failures with Lambda on Rice Stink Bugs, please let us know. We will try to evaluate populations for resistance.

We do finally have elevated Southwestern Corn Borer numbers just across the southern border for Jackson County. I caught 40 at Tupelo yesterday which is nearing treatment levels for conventional corn.

The Corn Earworm/ Bollworm Trap numbers are down this week which was expected. I have not seen that large hatch happening in soybeans yet, but I did find a few sweepings. Remember with the sustained high day and night temperatures you must scout earlier in the day preferably before 10 am to get an accurate count. If scouting in the afternoon always take into account, the lower potential there. Use a shake sheet to help evaluate if needed. That tells me they are in the corn and will have new generations in 1-2 weeks. I have seen almost all young earworm in the corn ears this week.

Stink Bug numbers on every field of soybeans have hovered around threshold. Need to keep a watchful eye on pods. Look for damage.

Cotton is looking great across the county but with elevated stink bug numbers I am slightly concerned. The damage caused by Stink Bugs and Adult Plant Bugs is hard to distinguish and I know many producers will run straight Transform/Diamond which is the "Cadillac Treatment". The issue with Transform/Diamond it will not control stink bug period. If you are suspecting stink bug damage and are checking for boll retention, consider using Acephate/Orthene or Bidrin/Dicromax to control the stink bugs.

## **Drought Conditions**

We are all aware that a rain is not going to save us at this point from the drought. There has been irreversible damage done to many farms that will take years to correct. Some options to consider if we have rain in the August Time Frame.

Row Crop Farmers- Potential to Double Crop Sorghum Sudangrass, Pearl Millet, or Spring Oats behind a cash crop for Hay/Silage. You would need roughly 60 days and if following corn there wouldn't be a need to add additional fertilizer.

Livestock Producers- Begin to consider your current Hay for winter then make the decision as to when should I be planting a fall forage. Clover, Oats, Fescue, and several other blends have potential. We have 300 days of grazing program that can be utilized and plenty of additional resources. If you need help on figuring what you will need to make it through the winter, please reach out so we can discuss.

Also Check Out Drought Webinar Thursday

<https://www.uaex.uada.edu/environment-nature/disaster/drought-effects/default.aspx>