Tuesday – June 9, 2020

BILL: And welcome into another edition of Ag Talk. This is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. And our topic today Ed, early soybean diseases to be on the lookout for.

ED: These diseases Bill, they can hit us all the way up to the first and second trifoliate. The thing about it is that and that’s when the natural resistance of the plant can kick in and give us protection against them, but when the seedling is just coming up in the early stages it’s very susceptible to diseases depending on what the soil and weather conditions are doing. We always have these potential conditions in our soil because we are dealing with the great swamp at one time so we tend to have a lot of the wet type of diseases that can hit soybeans. And this is reason why we use seed treatments cause it will give us protection until that natural resistance of the variety can kick in when we get our first trifoliate leaf. But the three diseases we can see out there and we got soybeans in all different stages. We have ones that were planted and did well, we got some that were just being planted last week, and we got some replants out there. And so we got a lot of things in different growth stages that might be susceptible. And the way we look at a field to tell if you got diseases, you look for pockets or large skips in the rows. If I got pocket in the field, I got plants that look like they are dying off or didn’t get anything or poor emergence in general. We need to dig up the seeds or look at the root system as well if you have a small plant the whole thing to get an idea of what we have. By far, the Pythium-Phytophthora complex is our biggest problem they enjoy wet soils. If it’s cool Pythium predominates, if it’s a warm soil Phytophthora predominates but they can both do serious damage. You dig up that plant and look at its roots and it’s hypocotyl, it will be brown to tan discoloration and a lot of times it looks like those seedlings just wilt. Another one we can see is Rhizoctonia. It generally only occurs in alternate when soils are dry and wetting back and forth. Its characteristic is a nice rusty red or brick color on the lower stem and on the root. That reddish color is a real what I call a rusty red is a real characteristic of Rhizoctonia. Fusarium is another one we can get. It’s going to be red but it’s going to more of a pinkish red and it’s really bright. We generally run into fusarium when we got a lot of corn residue in that soybean field cause that fusarium fungi will basically live in that corn residue so it can quickly effect soybean seedlings if the conditions are right for it. So all three of these may be out there. If a farmer used seed treatments, most of our seed treatments give us protection against it but if they haven’t, they may want to diagnose it and think if they need to replant some areas.

BILL: Thank you Ed. For Ag Talk this is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Good morning to you.

Ed: Good morning.