

SOYA DISEASES – Dr Clive Levy’s Own Pictures

There have been no Soyabean Rust reports yet that CFU is aware of. Most large scale farmers will be spraying preventatively in a season such as this one. A few weeks ago, pictures were posted of rust symptoms on soya, but below is one of Dr Clive Levy’s own pictures. (bottom and top of leaves).



Taken from Dr Levy’s notes: “Initially rust appears on the lower leaves as a yellow discolouration (almost mosaic-like) on the upper surface. It rapidly moves upwards through the canopy. Numerous small, grey to russet coloured tufts of the fungus are seen on the lower surface of the affected leaves. These may be seen on both yellowed and diseased leaves.

“In the more advanced stages of infection, the lower and middle canopy leaves become distinctly yellow and the plants look ‘diseased’. On the underside of these leaves, brown scarring is seen both as pin-points and more extensive lesions.

In hot, dry weather, a light brown cloud of spores (like dust) may be seen above the canopy when the wind blows, or the canopy is disturbed. Tip-burning and sun-scorch of green leaves may be seen. Leaf drop will be premature and rapid.”

Chemical control is the main control option, though there are tolerant varieties available.

Below is Dr Levy’s picture of a similar-looking disease, Bacterial Blight. The disease spots or lesions differ to Rust in that the centres “dry out and turn dark brown to black and are bordered with yellowish-green halos. It is common in wet weather, especially just before flowering but seldom persists thereafter, when hot, dry conditions limit infection. The disease has little impact on yield and can be ignored”.



Bacterial Pustule (pictures below courtesy of Nyasha Chiuraise of SeedCo) has been on some crops this season. It is more serious than Bacterial Blight in that it causes defoliation. There are no specific

fungicides registered for this disease, but those used to control Soya Rust (Shavit, Folicur, Tebuconazole) are said to suppress the disease in its early stages.

Please send any comments or queries to crops@cfuzim.org



