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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
David Dugan
OSU Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Adams/Brown/Highland Counties
Ohio Valley Extension Education Research Area

Blue Mold Found in Lewis and Mason Counties

The first I heard about blue mold this year and it is just on the Kentucky side of the Ohio River. It was first reported in Lewis County on Friday (Aug. 15) but was not confirmed on Friday. On Monday morning the Mason Co. Extension Agent also found what he believed to be blue mold in a patch. This was found in a patch that has been topped and sprayed for nearly a week. However, from talking to Dr. Bob Pearce, University of Kentucky Tobacco Specialist, the belief is that the lesions are probably nearly two weeks old, so it has been there a while and it is now confirmed.

The weather patterns have been swirling with low fronts. Most likely this is not just a Mason and Lewis County issue. Most likely this is spread throughout Southern Ohio Counties, too. The weather conditions on Monday are ideal for blue mold to thrive. Tobacco that has been topped and sprayed with a MH product for sucker control for at least 10 days will probably see very little damage. However, tobacco that has not been topped, or topped in the past few days could have damage. It is recommended that these later crops be sprayed to prevent or reduce the issues with blue mold. If Quadris has been applied recently for the prevention of Target Spot, you have provided the crop with some protection. Depending on the amount of time since the Quadris application and the current stage of the crop, another application may need to be made. Keep in mind, another product should be used between any two applications of Quadris according to the label.

The following are the recommendations from the University of Kentucky:

Apply Revus at 8 oz/A in enough water to achieve thorough leaf coverage. Drop nozzles are highly recommended to provide coverage to lower leaves. Applications may be made 7 to 10 days apart. Make no more than 2 consecutive applications of Revus before switching to another fungicide with a different mode of activity. The pre-harvest interval for Revus is 7 days. For tobacco at topping or beyond, a single application of 8 oz/A will likely be sufficient. If conditions remain conducive for disease development younger crops may require two applications.

For crops that have not been previously treated with Quadris:

Quadris may be applied at 6 to 12 oz per acre in enough water to achieve thorough leaf coverage. For crops without active disease 8 oz per acre should be recommended. Where the disease is already appearing 10 to 12 oz per acre should be recommended. Drop nozzles are highly recommended to provide coverage to lower leaves. Do not make consecutive applications of Quadris. The pre-harvest interval for Quadris is 0 days, but it should be applied well before harvest to be effective in controlling the disease. For tobacco at topping or beyond, a single application of will likely be sufficient.

Sclerotinia Stem Rot and White Mold in Soybeans

This does not sound good. This is from OSU Extension Soybean Specialist, Dr. Anne Dorrance. The information showed up in my inbox over the weekend and was discussed during the CORN Conference Call on Monday. I anticipate there will be more in the CORN newsletter this week.

Based on calls last week and looking at our own trials, Sclerotinia stem rot and white mold is going to be readily apparent this week from the road. Early indications are that some highly susceptible varieties may have gotten

planted on the wrong field and basically they are "smoked". It will look fairly bad and farmers will be upset. So here is what we know about Sclerotinia stem rot of soybean in Ohio.

This disease is caused by the fungus, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* and it is favored by cool damp conditions. Remember those morning fogs this summer and the fact that you hardly used your air conditioner? These are perfect conditions for infection. This fungus forms hard black irregular shaped bodies called sclerotia. They are actually a mass of hyphae and if you break them open they will be pink inside. They can be mistaken for mice or rat droppings as well. The inside is a different color! When the conditions are cool and the canopy is closed, this fungus produces a very small mushroom. This usually occurs during flowering and the spores then land on the dead flowers. This provides a perfect point of entry. This fungus produces oxalic acid – which degrades the tissue as it colonizes the plant. The infections that you see now occurred 2 to 4 weeks ago. Symptoms from the road will look like standing plants with a gray-green appearance. Eventually these plants will lodge. Once the leaves fall off – the plants will stand back up to some extent.

1. **There is nothing to spray at this time to stop the infection**. The plants that have stem lesions will die and that yield will be lost. The plants that lodge on top of one another, we have seen the mycelium keep colonizing the upper stems – "plant-to-plant". But overall this will be minimal. Again, nothing can be sprayed on the plants at this time.
2. It takes at least 20% incidence to begin to measure yield loss. We have had several trials out, we can measure differences in disease severity/incidence – but in all cases we could not measure yield loss as we were at 15 to 20% incidence.
3. Not all fields have inoculum – there must be sclerotia in the field from a previous crop to have Sclerotinia develop – so farmers should note this field as they will now have this "forever".
4. Make note of the variety – and remove this from the list. There are more resistant varieties out there, but this year was VERY conducive for infection and I expect that some moderately resistant varieties are going to have a tough time. As I like to say, it is a good year for companies to clean out some of their inventory.
5. Plan to harvest these fields last. The reason is the sclerotia, they will get everywhere in those combines and then become introduced into more fields. Let's keep the spread to a minimum.
6. Seed dealers – the new equipment can clean these out of the seed, but what gets cleaned out, should not be dumped back into a field – take it to the dump. These sclerotia can live for a longer time once they are buried.
7. After harvest, practice no-till. The sclerotia that are left on the surface will degrade more quickly than those that are buried.
8. For severely infested fields, we have tried fall applications of a biocontrol fungus called Contans. Interestingly, in subsequent years, we did not observe white mold developing – but I can't be certain it was from the Contans or the fact that the environment was not favorable in the years that followed or if the varieties were more resistant. So I am sharing the information but not backing the practice.
9. Practice good weed management. This fungus has a very wide host range including many weeds, alfalfa, and other legumes. So it is best to plan for wheat or corn for the next crop.
10. Choose varieties with better resistance levels.

Farm Science Review Tickets

Farm Science Review tickets are available at all of our OSU Extension Offices. The FSR is September 16-18 this year and the ticket prices remain the same. Ten dollars at the gate or you can get them for $7 in advance at the Extension office, or other locations that offer the advanced purchase of tickets.

Dates to Remember

August 19 Farm Bill meeting sponsored by Farm Credit Mid-America on the Wilmington College Campus starting at 7:00 p.m.

August 26	Adams Co. Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
August 28	Jackson Beef and Forage Field Night at the Jackson Branch of OARDC. Pre-registration is required. The cost is $5 per person. Registration deadline is August 25. Includes dinner. Dinner begins at 5 p.m. (come early to visit with our sponsors/speakers). Program begins promptly at 6 p.m. Make checks payable to Ohio State University/OARDC. Mail to Kenny Wells, 019 Standpipe Road, Jackson, OH 45640.