

Helping Our Growers Grow Profits!



Soybeans: RenPro™ Soybean Seed Treatment

The main three root diseases of soybeans that lower yields and farm profits are Pythium, Rhizoctonia and Fusarium. While Pythium is considered a cool, wet soil disease, both the Fusarium and Rhizoctonia are worst in warm soil conditions.

The top two photographs show USG 7553 soybeans planted in April. Photo “1” shows soybeans treated with RenPro™ while untreated soybeans already infected by Rhizoctonia are shown in photo “2”.

Rhizoctonia seedling, stem and root rot is caused by the fungus, *Rhizoctonia solani*. Rhizoctonia is typically found in drier conditions or sandy fields. The diseased plants are scattered in fields as a single plant or group of dead plants in a row or in circular areas. Warm and dry soil prior to planting followed by wet conditions after planting enhances disease pressure.

Young plants are most susceptible but stressed older plants may die if moisture is limited. If the plant survives the seedling stage, the main taproot can rot and the plant will have to live off the secondary root system which stunts plant growth. This means slower row shading which increases soil moisture loss and the potential for greater weed competition.

Where disease pressure is heavier, the lower stems turn red (photo “3”) which will cause premature plant death. The bottom photo shows irrigated soybeans at harvest with Rhizoctonia. These plants produced 30% less than non-infected areas and had lodged early in the season.

RenPro™ seed treatment is a combination of three fungicides plus molybdenum and is available only from Renwood Farms. One fungicide is specifically for Pythium, one is to prevent Rhizoctonia with some activity on Fusarium and the third is added primarily to prevent Fusarium with some activity on Rhizoctonia.

RenPro Plus™ seed treatment has the three fungicides and molybdenum plus an insecticide seed treatment to prevent damage from thrips and bean leaf beetles. These insects can infect the plant with viruses or just generally lower plant health.

