

Spring rains bring root rots to Missouri field crops

By **Linda Geist**
University of Missouri Extension
geistli@missouri.edu

COLUMBIA – Frequent spring rains in Missouri set the stage for seedling and root rotting diseases that can lower yields.

Pythium species usually infect the roots of corn, soybean and wheat, especially in the northern half of the state, says University of Missouri Extension plant pathologist Kaitlyn Bissonnette.

Infection by Pythium favors cool, wet weather, which Missouri saw in large amounts in April and May. As soil temperatures rise, infection slows and eventually ends, says Peng Tian, director of the MU Plant Diagnostic Clinic.

Stand loss from seedling diseases in corn and soybean is concerning, says Bissonnette. Fields may have seed rotting in the ground or young plants that emerged but started to die back after several weeks of slow growth.

Even with a seed treatment, prolonged exposure to cool, moist soils can still result in seedling disease, especially when disease pressure is high, she says.

Farmers may consider replanting when stand loss occurs, especially in soybean. An MU Extension guide to replant decisions, written by soybean specialist Bill Wiebold

and economist Ray Massey, makes these calls easier with spreadsheets to estimate dollar gain or loss from replanting. The guide, “Corn and Soybean Replant Decisions,” is available for free download at extension.missouri.edu/g4091.

Winter wheat production has not been left out of the game this year when it comes to root rotting diseases, says Bissonnette. Some winter wheat fields have quickly begun to show symptoms of stunting and white heads in patches or in strips across the field.

Upon closer examination, roots showed signs of not only Pythium species but also Rhizoctonia and Fusarium, Tian says.

Since these diseases infected plants during the grain fill period, affected areas will produce little to no grain. Infection risk will decrease as temperatures rise and soils dry. Because these diseases are in the soil, it is unlikely infection will move to other fields before harvest. Field assessments should rely on percentage of acreage affected and severity of root rot symptoms.

If you suspect seedling diseases in corn or soybean or fields, or root rots in your wheat field, contact the MU Plant Diagnostic Clinic at plantclinic@missouri.edu or 573-882-3019.

Source: Kaitlyn Bissonnette, 573-882-9106; Peng Tian, 573-882-3019



38th Annual MCA All-Breeds Junior Show Boasts Near Record Attendance - Over 600 Head Exhibited by More Than 350 Youth

By **Missouri Cattlemen's Assoc.**
Contributed

The Missouri Cattlemen's Association and the Missouri Junior Cattlemen's Association hosted the 38th Annual MCA All-Breeds Junior Show June 11-13 at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, Missouri.

According to the MCA Manager of Membership Sydney Thummel, participation was nothing short of impressive.

“We are always proud of our junior members and the work they put into the projects. With 350 exhibitors and over 600 head of cattle, we once again had one of the largest shows on record,” Thummel said. “We could not have done it without the MJCA Board of Directors, MCA Youth Advisory Committee and the countless other volunteers helped throughout the weekend.”

The show concluded on Sunday with judges Scott and Ty Bayer, TC Reds, selecting the supreme

champions. Paisley Nelson of Platte City, exhibited the Supreme Champion Heifer, and Hailey Eads of Trenton, exhibited the Supreme Champion Market Animal. The Reserve Supreme Heifer was exhibited by Alexis Koelling of Curryville, and Reserve Supreme Market Animal was exhibited by Gabryelle Hapes of Chillicothe. Supreme Senior Showmanship went to Allena Allen of Trenton, and Reserve Senior Showman was Lucas Crutcher of Fair Grove. Sache Dowling of Fair Grove, was the Supreme Junior Showmanship winner and Cass Kleeman of Braymer, picked up reserve.

sponsors for their support of this event.

Grand Champion Level: ADM Animal Nutrition/ MoorMan's ShowTec and Showcoat Solutions

Reserve Champion Level: H&H Show Supply; Sullivan Supply and Callaway-Montgomery County Cattlemen's Association
Others: AgButler; Missouri Angus Association; Missouri Limousin Breeders Association; Mid-Mo Feeds; Lewis Cattle Oilers; Pearl's Pics Photography; LAG Industries; Missouri State Fair Foundation; Missouri Simmental Association; Missouri State University Block and Bridle and Petey's Ice Cream.

Thanks to the following



Photos by Kaitlyn Bissonnette

ABOVE LEFT: Soybean seedlings, one rotten and one slow to emerge, from a field with extensive stand loss due to seedling disease. RIGHT: Wheat field with symptoms of root rot. Blank heads and early maturing plants in patches appear. BELOW: Symptoms of sharp eyespot, caused by *Ceratobasidium cereale* (Rhizoctonia cerealis), at the base of a wheat plant.



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