Identifying soybean growth stages –

Begin scouting for soybean rust by the reproductive (R) stages. The growth stages can overlap; consider that a growth stage begins when 50% or more of the plants are in or beyond that stage. A node is a part of the stem where a leaf is attached.

Bloom stages- R1 and R2

R1- Beginning bloom – (1-7 days) plants have at least one open flower at any node

R2- Full bloom – (5-15 days) an open flower at one of the two uppermost nodes of the main stem

Pod development- R3 and R4

R3- Beginning pod – (5-15 days) pods are 3/16 inch at one of the four uppermost nodes with a fully developed leaf

R4- Full pod – (4-26 days) pods are 3/4 inch at one of the four uppermost nodes on a main stem with a fully developed leaf. This stage is the most critical for soybean yield.

Seed development- R5-R6

R5- Beginning seed – (11-20 days) seed is 1/8 inch long in the pod at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem.

R6- Full seed – (9-30 days) pod containing a green seed that fills the pod capacity at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem – stop scouting when soybeans reach R6.

Maturity R7-R8

R7- Beginning maturity (7-18 days) One normal pod on the main stem has reached its mature pod color.

R8- Full maturity 95% of pods have turned their mature color (tan or brown).