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Bactericide offers hope for some control of SDS (Photo courtesy of Jeff Littrell)

SDS Control

SDS is a bacterial disease, fungicides don't work and the only methods of control are resistant varieties, crop rotation away from corn and tillage to bury residue.

However BRT Ag and Turf out of Ladora, Iowa and Rochester, Minn. are evaluating a program that shows some promise to prevent SDS from developing.

Jeff Littrell who works in product development for BRT explains that from the beginning, growers have to pay attention to plant health. He recommends treating seed with a fungicide and the soil with a biological, maintain a good foundation of phosphorus and potassium in the soil, use a small amount of starter when planting and then foliar feed beans a couple times.

"In water prone areas where SDS is more likely," said Littrell "apply Procidic, a bactericide and fungicide that alters the environment so pathogens can't survive plus ample nutrition." Littrell's recommends one gallon of their Rondo (5-15-5 plus micronutrients manganese, and copper) per acre and mix it with 2 ounces of Procidic and 4 ounces of SafeStrike (neem oil). In regards to application timing "What we have found is that when the repeated dews start to come in mid- to late July, wait 3 to 4 week and apply the product mix."

"Results are very dramatic," said Littrell after their first season of testing. "It'll stop infection in its tracks. However it isn't a one jug wonder but a process. Growers have to manage for a healthy crop and then if the risk develops, apply this foliar." In the accompanying photo, Littrell described the treated area inside the white arrows as remaining green while the untreated area were infected with SDS and some plants had only petioles and branches left.

Procidic and SafeStrike are marketed by Greenspire Global in Waukee, Iowa. Procidic is made in Barcelona, Spain and has both bactericide and fungicide properties.