**Soybean Rust** (*Phakopsora pachyrhizi*)

**ORIGIN:** First identified in Japan in 1902.

**CURRENT DISTRIBUTION:** First found in the US in Hawaii in 1994 and then Louisiana in 2004. Reported in several southern states. Detected in Illinois late in the growing seasons of 2006 and 2007, late onset believed to pose no serious threat to those crops. Worldwide it has been identified throughout Asia, Australia, Africa, and South America.

**SYMPTOMS:** First symptoms include yellowing patches of foliage during the growing stage of the plants. These develop into concentrated specks of tan brown or reddish lesions concentrated on the leaf veins which spread throughout the leaf killing off portions of the plant. The fungus than develops into cone shaped pustules on the bottom surface of the leaf which produce light-colored powdery spores from which it spreads.

**IMPORTANCE:** Infected fields have shown a loss of 10 to 80% of total yield.

**HOST (RANGE):** Primary host plants are soybean (*Glycine max*), Glycine soja, Jicama (*Pachyrhizus erosus*), Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*) and Cow Pea (*Vigna unguiculata*). Kudzu can also serve as a secondary host from which the fungus can over-winter.

**Management:** Some fungicides have been reported to be useful in protecting against the spread of the fungus. Developing and planting disease resistant varieties is currently underway. The removal and destruction of secondary hosts of the already invasive Kudzu plants is also becoming more important.