**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.

**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.

**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

**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 it's mature pod color.

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