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Soybean Seed Treatments – Sudden Death Syndrome (part 2...)

In last week's column (available at: <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/crops-soils/index.html>) soybean Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) was the focus. While many other early season soybean diseases affecting are managed by multiple commonly used seed treatments available on the market, SDS treatments are a little more specialized.

According to *Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Seedling Diseases*, a publication of the Crop Protection Network, multiple products include Sudden Death Syndrome on the label. Unfortunately, many of the ones we might utilize for other diseases are rated poor for Sudden Death Syndrome – if they're labeled at all. In fact, only two active ingredients – fluopyram and pydiflumetofen – are rated as very good for SDS control. Fluopyram is the active ingredient in ILEVO. Pydiflumetofen is the active ingredient in Saltro.

In 2023, K-State Extension Plant Pathologist Dr. Rodrigo Onofre tested both products in side-by-side comparisons with other seed treatments comparing all to an untreated check. While *all* seed treatments provide *some* positive yield difference, ILEVO and Saltro showed the strongest response. Further evaluation confirmed positive reductions in SDS root rot as well, either with Saltro by itself or ILEVO plus Ceramax, a biological seed treatment being tested with hopes of reducing the variability sometimes associated with seed treatments against SDS.

Soybean Sudden Death Syndrome isn't a problem for every grower every year, tending to be a greater issue in well-managed soybean fields with a high yield potential, particularly when they have a history of SDS. In some cases, variety selection and planting management will keep SDS from being an issue, but if early planting or if planting conditions are favorable for SDS development, seed treatments could be an option to consider.

For more information on SDS management or K-State trials, contact me via any District Office or e-mail me at dhallaue@ksu.edu. Hard copies of *Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Seedling Diseases* are available upon request as well.