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 – pods are 3/16 inch at one of the four uppermost nodes with a fully developed leaf.

R4- Full pod – 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 – seed is 1/8 inch long in the pod at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem.

R6- Full seed – 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.

Bloom stages- R1 and R2
R1- Beginning bloom – plants have at least one open flower at any node.

R2- Full bloom – an open flower at one of the two uppermost nodes of the main stem.

Maturity R7-R8
R7- Beginning maturity – One normal pod on the main stem has reached it’s mature pod color.

R-8 Full maturity - 95% of pods have turned their mature color (tan or brown).