

Partnership Perk



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Soybean Cyst Nematode Females Now Present

Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) females were first reported in 2006 by John Holmes, ISU Extension field specialist—crops in north central Iowa the week of June 9. The field was planted the first week of May. That means that Iowa fields can now be scouted for SCN. Dig about one foot below soybean plants and gently shake the roots, dislodging the soil. SCN females are small, round, white structures that are about the size of the period at the end of a printed sentence.

Fields with a history of frequent soybean production and particularly fields where soybean yields have declined over time for no apparent reason are prime candidates for scouting. In addition, SCN is more generally more prevalent and found in greater numbers in areas of fields with high pH (greater than 7.5). And because SCN is spread by the movement of infested soil, checking roots of plants near the entrance of fields where farm equipment enters and along fence lines where wind-blown soil accumulates also may increase the likelihood of finding SCN-infected plants.

ISU Extension publication IPM 47s, *Scouting for Soybean Cyst Nematode*, illustrates the recommended procedures for scouting for SCN. Single copies are available free of charge from county extension offices or from the Extension Distribution Center by calling (515) 294-5247; they also can be downloaded from the site: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/IPM47S.pdf>.

Additional information about SCN can be found on the Web at www.soybeancyst.info.

Long Story Short: The time is ripe for locating infestations of soybean cyst nematodes. Soybean yield losses from SCN can be significant, even without expression of visible plant symptoms in the field.

Source: Greg Tylka, Department of Plant Pathology