



PARTNERSHIP PERK

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Soybean Cyst Nematode Females now Apparent on Roots in Iowa

We are into the second month of the growing season and as expected, soybean pests and pathogens are beginning to show up. The soybean cyst nematode is estimated to occur in up to 75% of Iowa fields, but many infested fields have not yet been identified. In-season scouting is done by digging roots, shaking off soil, and carefully looking for adult SCN females, which appear as small white dots on the roots.

On June 16, ISU Extension field specialist for crops Mark Carlton observed adult SCN females on roots of soybeans in northeast Lee County. These soybeans were at growth stage V5.

This discovery is the first in Iowa in 2005 and marks the beginning of the summer scouting season for SCN. SCN females should be apparent on the young roots of soybeans plants through August. Since SCN usually does not cause obvious above-ground symptoms, observing roots is an effective yet inexpensive way to check fields for the presence of the pest. Management of infested fields would include growing non-host crops, such as corn, and planting SCN-resistant soybean varieties in future years.

Long story short: Soybean cyst nematode is a widespread and serious pest of soybeans in Iowa but it does not necessarily cause obvious symptoms of damage above ground. Digging soybean roots and looking for SCN females is a quick and easy way to check for SCN during the growing season. SCN females have been observed on soybean plants in southeastern Iowa, so scouting statewide should occur during the next two months.

Source: Greg Tylka, Department of Plant Pathology and
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