SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE QUICK FACTS

IMPACT ON YOUR CROP

• Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) can cause significant yield loss without displaying aboveground symptoms.
• SCN is the most yield-limiting pest of soybean in the United States.

Symptoms include lower than expected yields, chlorosis, plant stunting, and plant death. Soil samples should be analyzed by a nematode assay laboratory.

TIPS TO MANAGE

• Planting a non-host crop such as corn or sorghum for only one year can significantly reduce SCN populations.
• Planting a resistant soybean product, that matches the race of SCN in the field, can be an economical means of managing SCN.
• Optimum soil fertility, proper seedbed preparation, management practices that minimize plant stress, and excellent weed control can reduce the impact of SCN feeding.

WHAT TO SCOUT

• High levels of SCN infestation can cause the tap root to die several inches below the soil surface.
• Secondary root development may be stunted.
• Reduced nodule formation on the roots.
• Portions of soybean field with severely stunted and chlorotic plants (Figure 1).
• Soil assays and root examination are necessary for accurate diagnosis of SCN populations and races.
• The first time a field is checked for SCN, samples should be taken from areas near a field entrance, along fence lines, areas where soybean yield was low the last time soybeans were grown, areas where weed control is not good, areas that have been flooded, and areas with a high soil pH.
• Identifying the specific race or races of SCN in a field can help you select soybean products that are resistant to those races.


For additional resources on this topic, contact your local seed representative or visit your seed brand website.