

Soybean Cyst Nematode

Overview

Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is a troublesome pest which can significantly affect yield. Effective management of SCN requires multiple management strategies.

What you should know

- Soybean cyst nematode (*Heterodera glycines*) is a microscopic roundworm that infects soybean roots. SCN is easily spread by contaminated equipment, wind, flooding or animals.
- Yield losses greater than 50% have been reported.
- Symptom severity relates to the amount of SCN in the soil. Warm, dry conditions increase the severity of above-ground symptoms, and losses from SCN are usually greater during droughts.
- Check roots for white to yellowish lemon-shaped cysts about 1 mm in diameter. Above-ground SCN symptoms include stunting, yellowing and poor stands. Roots can appear dark and decayed with few, if any, nitrogen-fixing nodules.
- The most effective method for identifying SCN is soil sampling. Sample the top 6-8 inches of soil, close to plant roots. A laboratory can determine egg counts.

Action steps

- 1. Keep fields SCN-free:** Clean equipment used in infested areas. Employ reduced-tillage practices that limit wind erosion and movement of soil.
- 2. Rotate your crops:** Crop rotation can reduce egg densities in soil. Rotate to non-host crops—corn, alfalfa or small grains—for 3-4 years to reduce nematode populations.
- 3. Plant resistant varieties:** Select varieties with SCN resistance.
- 4. Consider seed treatments:** Nematicide seed treatments for SCN include biologicals, resistance inducers, fungicides and true nematicides.

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/crops/soybean-production-field-guide-for-north-dakota#section-48>



SCN appears as white or yellow cysts on soybean roots.



30-Second Summary

- SCN can cause soybean yield losses up to 50%.
- The severity of SCN infection increases with warm, dry conditions.
- Crop rotation, planting resistant varieties and nematicides can help prevent SCN infection.

NOTES:

For more information, contact:



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