Get a jump on soybean cyst nematode

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Was soybean cyst nematode a problem in your fields this year? Don't be too surprised-it may be the most destructive soybean pest in the United States.

And now is a good time to consider one of the control options available to stay one step ahead of SCN in coming seasons, says Charles Brim, manager of soybean research at Funk Seeds International.

"Nematodes are most often spread to new areas on contaminated equipment," Brim says. "This fall, be sure to clean your

moving to other fields. And work intested fields last.

"Rotation, resistant soybean varieties and nematicides will all help reduce SCN damage," he adds.

Resistant varieties, used in a well-managed rotation program, are the most effective, least expensive means of SCN control. Although public varieties such as Forrest, Franklin and Bedford have race-specific SCN resistance, we are going one step further at Funk to develop locally adapted

equipment thoroughly before varieties with both resistance and yield advantages," Brim adds.

He suggests growers first determine it SCN is present in their tields and the specific SCN race before planting a resistant variety. Local crop production specialists or Extension plant pathologists can test soil for the presence of SCN.

"Resistant varieties are not necessarily top performers if planted in non-infested fields. For example, Franklin will perform better than Williams under pressure from SCN, but will not do as well as Williams if unintested fields," says Brim.

Rotating susceptible soybean varieties with nonhost crops and resistant soybean varieties will also contain the spread of SCN. Nonhost crops include corn, oats, small grains, sorghum, and leguminous torage crops.

'Studies show that each year a field is free of a host crop, nematode populations are reduced by 50 to 90 percent," Brim points out. But SCN populations may increase enough to cause yield damage in only one year of a susceptible crop.

crop or resistant soybean varieties tor two consecutive years to reduce SCN populations. A susceptible variety, for higher yields, may then be planted the third year.

However, if Race 4 is a problem, which it is for many soybean growers in the South, Brim cautions growers planting Race 4resistant Bedford continuously could increase the chances of a new race developing, jeopardizing future resistance.

, Bedtord is resistant to only a few of the 13 biotypes of Race 4 SCN that have been identified. Successive plantings of Bedtord could result in development of populations of those biotypes which will attack Race 4-resistant varieties, further reducing the effectiveness of planting Bedford in Race 4-infested soils.

Nematicides are the next best alternative when resistant soybean varieties aren't sufficient

protection in heavy SCN populations or when rotations aren't teasible. Although they represent the most expensive treatment method, several effective nematicides and preplant soil tumigants are available, Brim says.

But for chemical controls and resistant varieties to produce full yield benefits, both must be backed up with adequate soil fertility, he adds. Fields should be soil tested regularly and adequate to high potash and phosphorus levels maintained to promote good growth and reduce nematode damage.

Finally, growers should purchase seed from a reliable source to prevent field contamination. "Nematodes may be present on soil particles attached to seed that hasn't been thoroughly cleaned, and growers can be introducing SCN to their fields at planting,' Brim concludes.

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Meeting on hazardous waste this Wednesday

HARRISBURG - Proposed criteria for siting hazardous waste facilities in Pennsylvania will be discussed at a public meeting in Room 31 of the Education Building, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, between 4 and 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 22.

Mary T. Weber, special deputy secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources and chairman of the Commonwealth's Hazardous Waste Facilities Planning Advisory Committee, will preside. She conducted similar meetings in Pittsburgh on June 24 and Norristown on July 9.

The proposed "Preliminary Environmental, Social and Economic Criteria and Standards for Siting Hazardous Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities," prepared by DER with the cooperation of the 14-member advisory committee, was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin for a 90-day public comment period ending Thursday, July

Copies of the proposed criteria

Division, Box 2063, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120. Recommendations and comments on the criteria, prepared under a mandate of the Solid Waste Management Act of 1980, should be sent to that address. The committee has asked that,

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Hazardous Waste Management

where possible, those planning to speak at the meeting register in advance with the division. Speakers are requested to bring written summaries of their comments.

The proposed criteria define the environmental, social and economic factors which must be considered to assess the geologic, hydrologic, soils, air and water quality, natural, scenic, aesthetic and economic impact of locating each hazardous waste facility.

The criteria also define how the effects of each facility should be assessed in relation to transportation, population, land use, ownership and proximity and possible compensation to the host municipality.



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