

Soybean Cyst Nematodes Spreading Northward

DEKALB, IL — Soybean cyst nematodes (SCN), once thought to be a Southern pest, are increasingly being recognized as an economic threat in northern areas. "Since their detection in Winnebago County on the Iowa-Minnesota border in 1979, SCN has spread through much of north central Iowa, says Bob Streit, an

agronomist with Dekalb-Pfizer Genetics.

The soybean soybean cyst nematode is a small non-segmented round worm that invades and damages the roots of soybean plants. Damaged plants are stunted and often appear to be affected by iron deficiency chlorosis. When roots are examined with a

pocket microscope, white cysts may be found. "The cysts are actually the swollen abdomen of the pregnant female that turn from white to brown as they mature," states the agronomist. "Each cyst contains approximately 50 eggs that are protected from the elements by the cyst case."

The method of nematode spread

continues to be debated among scientists, however, proven carriers include machinery, eroding soil, and migrating birds.

"Controlling cyst nematodes involves an integrated program," the agronomist continues. The first step is detection. A pocket scope or hand lens plus the aid of an experienced individual helps. Infested fields should then be isolated. Washing machinery after working the infested field may help stop the spread.

Rotation is the most practical recommendation, although it can cause compliance problems with ASCS requirements. Non-host

crops that Midwest farmers can utilize include corn, oats, and alfalfa. "Each year a non-host crop is planted, 50 to 90 percent of the viable eggs die," according to the seed company agronomist. "Planting second year soybeans where cyst are present will allow early infestation of the soybean seedlings and possible high yield loss."

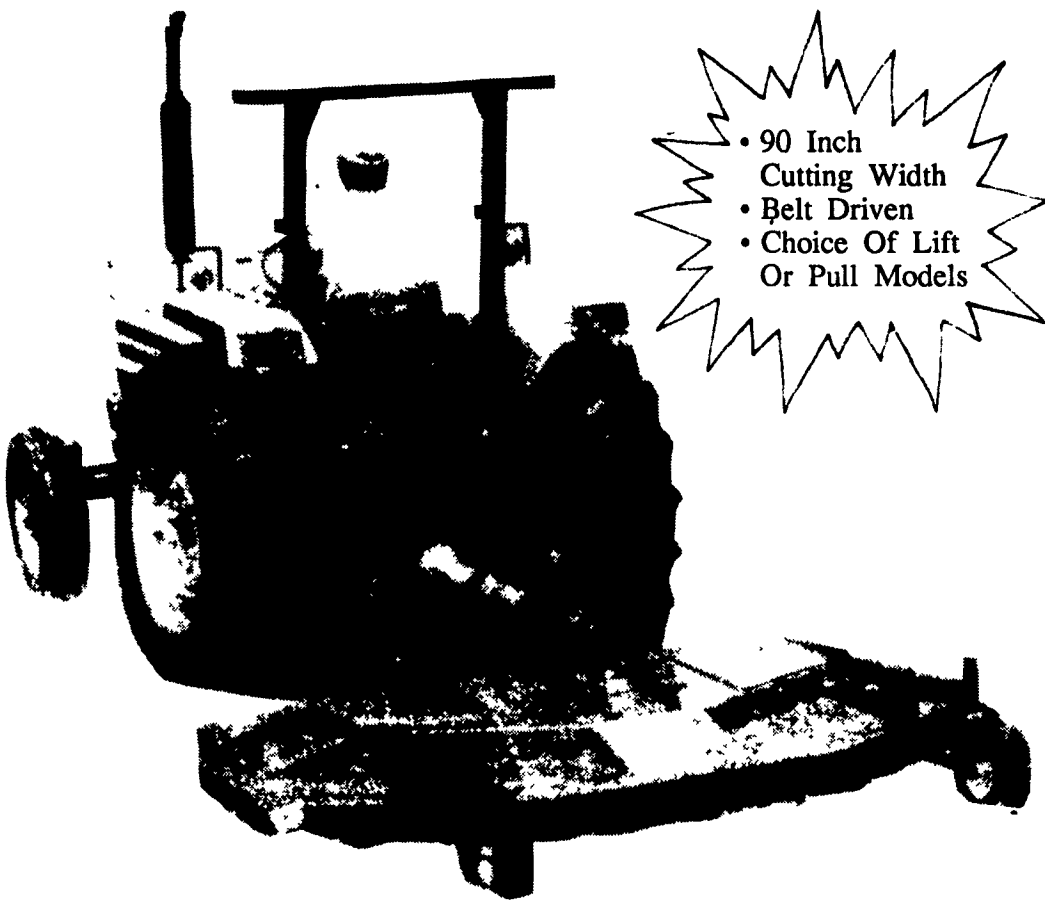
The use of resistant varieties in a crop rotation is the recommended program for affected growers. Progress has been made by soybean breeders to develop resistant Group I and Group II varieties," states Streit.

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DDA Hires Ag Specialist

DOVER, DE — The Delaware Department of Agriculture has hired Linda I. Smith of Bridgeville as its new Agriculture Specialist, effective April 1.

The newly created position was recommended by the Farm Assistance Task Force, a group formed in early 1988 by a joint resolution of the Delaware General Assembly. Task force members theorized that farmers would benefit from having someone act as a liaison between them and regulatory agencies whose rules and regulations they must abide.

"Much of Linda's job will be educating our farmers about certain agricultural practices and their impact on the environment. She also will facilitate better communication between farmers and our department as well as other agencies with which the agricultural community interacts," said William B. Chandler Jr., secretary of agriculture.

"The ultimate goal is to help farmers better manage their resources for improved efficiency and higher profits. Linda can help farmers nip problems in the bud before they get out of hand," Chandler continued.

Smith will be part of the department's Pesticide Compliance Sec-

tion. In addition to her role as a troubleshooter, Smith also eventually will take over the pesticide applicator certification program. Several goals are to standardize submission requirements for applicator continuing education courses, to offer a wider variety of classes for applicators with different specialties, and to more strictly enforce course attendance and certification procedures.

Smith, a New Jersey native, earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware with a double major in biology and plant pathology/entomology.

While in college Smith worked as a student assistant to Bob Mulrooney, a plant pathologist with the Cooperative Extension Service. Upon graduation she worked as a "scout" for JoAnne Whalen and Mark Graustein from Extension's integrated pest management program.

After a brief period with a crop consulting firm, she took over quality control management for her husband's farm in Bridgeville, T. S. Smith and Sons.

Smith also has worked as a program coordinator for Delaware Technical and Community College's Continuing Education department.

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