



MICHIGAN SOYBEAN  
PROMOTION COMMITTEE

# a new release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 9, 2011

Contact: Mike Staton  
MSU Extension CURE Soybean Educator  
[staton@msu.edu](mailto:staton@msu.edu) or at 269.673.0370

**NOTE TO EDITOR:** This is the third article in a four-part series provided by Mike Staton. The remaining article is *Fall vs. Spring Potassium Fertilizer Application*. It will be coming to you later this week.

## SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE SAMPLING

Soybean Cyst Nematodes (SCN) are microscopic roundworms that cause more economic losses than any other soybean pest. Soybean yield losses in fields severely infested by SCN can reach 100%. Yield losses as high as 10 to 15 bushels per acre can occur before symptoms such as yellowing or stunting are visible. Research has shown that yield losses due to SCN can be significantly reduced or avoided with careful management.

The first step to reducing soybean losses is to determine the severity of the infestation. The best way to do this is to collect soil samples in the fall and submit them to Diagnostic Services at Michigan State University (MSU). Your management strategies and tactics should be based on the SCN population densities found in each field. Proper sampling and handling of samples is critical to the success of your SCN management efforts. Because of this, sampling and handling instructions are listed below:

Pick up free SCN soil sampling packets from your local MSU Extension office. The Michigan Soybean Checkoff will cover the cost of the first 20 samples per farmer per year.

Use a soil probe to collect soil samples from a depth of 6 to 8 inches. Collect about 50 soil cores from each field or uniform area up to 20 acres within a field. Follow a "Z" or a "W" pattern to ensure that the cores are collected randomly.

Growers that produce soybeans and sugar beets should submit soybean root samples along with the soil sample when possible.

If the field is being tested for SCN for the first time, sample areas where SCN is most likely to establish. These include areas where equipment enters the field, coarse-textured soils, areas having soil pH levels greater than 7, and areas where yields have been lower than expected.

Place all the samples in a bucket and mix them together thoroughly. Place about 1 quart of soil in the plastic bag provided in the SCN sampling packet.

Keep the samples out of the sun and cool until you can send them to Diagnostic Services or deliver them to your local MSU Extension office.

Complete the "Grower Information" section of the SCN submittal form and include this with your soil sample.

The results of the SCN analysis and management recommendations will be sent directly to you.

- end -