

beginning of the growing season. Thereafter, through August, the SCN females can be observed on infected soybean roots. John Holmes, ISU Extension field crops specialist in north central Iowa, observed SCN females the week of June 5–9 on roots of soybeans that were planted in early May. This indicates that fields now can be scouted for SCN by digging roots and looking for SCN females.

To scout for SCN in fields where the nematode has not yet been found, dig under soybean plants about one foot deep and gently shake the soil from the roots that are dug up. SCN females will appear as small, round, white objects about the size of a period at the end of a printed sentence. You may target fields in which soybean has been grown frequently in the past and fields where soybean yields have declined over time for no apparent reason. SCN is more prevalent in greater numbers in areas of fields with high pH (greater than 7.5). And because SCN is spread by the movement of infested soil, checking roots of plants near the entrance of fields where farm equipment enters and along fence lines where windblown soil accumulates also may increase

the likelihood of finding SCN-infected plants.

ISU Extension publication IPM 47s, *Scouting for Soybean Cyst Nematode*, illustrates the recommended procedures for scouting for SCN. Additional information about SCN can be found on the Web at www.soybeancyst.info.

A pdf of IPM 47s can be found at

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/ListItems.aspx?Keyword=ipm47>.



Digging the roots to check for the presence of SCN females. (Greg Tylka)

Greg Tylka is a professor of plant pathology with extension and research responsibilities in management of plant-parasitic nematodes.



Weed Management

Make sure you know what you are spraying!

by Mike Owen, Department of Agronomy

Given the difficulties in getting POST herbicides applied and the aggressive weed growth that is effectively reducing crop yields, it seems that due consideration of the “details” has been avoided. This has resulted in costly unintended consequences: loss of fields due to herbicide treatments contaminated with other herbicides or the application of the wrong herbicide (e.g., glyphosate applied to Liberty Link® corn). It is important that sprayers and nurse tanks be safely and thoroughly rinsed prior to switching herbicides and/or crops. Also, take the time to check and make sure you are spraying the correct field, corn hybrid, or soybean variety with the appropriate herbicide.

Mike Owen is a professor of agronomy and weed science extension specialist with responsibilities in weed management and herbicide use.



Fields damaged by contamination of spray mixtures.

