

Our Vision

Building a consumer focused, farmer-owned agri-business with innovative people committed to excellence in a global marketplace.

Our Mission

To be a progressive, diversified agri-co-operative providing the benefits of ownership.

Our Motto

Proud to be farmer-owned.

03/05

Soybean Cyst Nematode

by Paul Cornwell, CCA-ON

Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN) was first confirmed in Huron County in 1996, but may have been here longer. Tell-tale signs in 2004 were droughty-looking areas in our moisture-laden soils. Other SCN symptoms include areas that have stunting, yellowing of the leaf margin, wavy field appearance, rows slow to close, weed escapes, cysts, poor nodulation, etc. The best defense is early detection, therefore all Ontario soybean producers should be scouting for SCN (and other diseases). This is not only true for producers in known SCN areas but for all regions of the province. Check the lighter areas of the field first. If you can see the cysts on the roots, you have already lost yield. Soil sampling is an economical way of confirming this major pest.

HDC and Monsanto have a program they are continuing this year. You can get your testing done free if:

- grower soil samples are taken before May and an SCN test is done by the lab of choice, through HDC
 - you have a maximum of 50 acres per sample
 - you have a minimum seed order of 75 units of First Line Seeds or Dekalb soybeans per soil sample.
- Monsanto will reimburse HDC up to \$25.00 per sample. We then reimburse you.

Results of the test can be positive or negative for SCN. Soybeans ordered do not have to be an SCN resistant variety. Results of the tests will be shared with Albert Tenuta – Field and Crop Plant Pathologist, OMAF, Ridgeway College.

SCN has been increasing in edible bean-producing areas of the province. Planting edible beans into SCN-infested fields can result in an increase in “root rot complex” infection. The nematode damages the roots, allowing for easier access by these organisms.

Breeding programs are getting up to speed on the problem. Both NK Seeds and First Line Seeds will have RR and conventional varieties that are SCN resistant from 2750 HU and up.

The take home message is that SCN continues to increase and is moving eastward and northward. Although we cannot stop it, we can slow its spread and minimize the economic impact. Remember, the nematode spreads by adhering to soil particles, and reducing soil movement will impede its path.

10 QUICK NO-TILL TIPS

by Mike Campbell, CCA-ON

1 Proper field drainage is key to a successful no-till operation. The longer it takes the field to dry out in the spring, the longer you should wait to start planting.

2 A sound crop rotation should be followed in a no-till system. By maintaining good crop rotations you are helping to ensure maximum yields by breaking any insect/disease cycle that may exist.

3 Always start with a weed-free field. Don't wait to make the first glyphosate application hoping more weeds will emerge. The problem with waiting is that if you are delayed in killing those weeds, they will compete with the crop and reduce your yields.

4 Choose only fields that are average to above average in soil test results. By ensuring there are sufficient nutrients available to the plant, you are not forced to build up your soil in a no-till situation.

5 Fertility placement is much more critical in no-till. In a conventional system you can apply all your nutrients on the surface and incorporate them. In no-till, there is no secondary tillage so fertilizer placement is critical. More banding of fertilizer is needed to ensure that proper nutrients are available in the root zone of the plant.

6 Crop residue should be managed so as to not harm next year's crop. If crop residue is not spread evenly across the field, it will delay the warming and drying of the soil. It will act as a blanket and insulate the soil causing it to remain cold and damp, resulting in a poor planting environment and decreased plant populations.

7 Seed treatments are valuable to help control both insects and diseases that may harm the seed and/or seedling. Crop residue acts as a host for both to overwinter and potentially causes harm to the crop in the spring.

8 Don't plant too early. Soil should be warm enough so the seed will germinate and not just sit in the soil exposed to the elements.

9 Seeding depth should be checked with each field. Soil types vary, so adjustments need to be made to ensure that the seed is not being planted too deep or too shallow.

10 Seed to soil contact should also be checked with each new field. You want to ensure that the seed is being covered, not lying in an open trench. The seedbed should be warm and dry so the soil will seal closely around the seed.

New Roundup technology

HDC has made the switch from Roundup Transorb to NEW Roundup WeatherMAX®. WeatherMAX is a higher load product which will allow you to handle less jugs. WeatherMAX also brings the following rewards:

NEW Roundup WeatherMAX 30 Minute Rainfast Guarantee - If Roundup WeatherMAX fails due to rainfall 30 minutes or more after application, we'll replace up to your initial rate for re-treatment.

NEW Roundup WeatherMAX Warranty - If you're forced to spray Roundup WeatherMAX in tough conditions, and satisfactory control is not obtained, Monsanto will replace up to the initial use rate of Roundup WeatherMAX for re-treatment.

Roundup Crop Establishment RiskShare™ - If you do a preplant burndown with Roundup and the crop on the treated acres fails to establish, forcing you to reseed the field before July 1, 2005, you will get a portion of your Roundup back on those acres.

Roundup Ready RiskShare - When you use a registered Roundup brand herbicide over your Roundup Ready crop, you have exclusive access to RiskShare. If you have to take your Roundup Ready acres out of production prior to October 1, 2005, for any reason, we will refund or credit the Roundup used in-crop on those acres.

2005 SEED PICK-UP DAYS

HDC locations will be hosting our *3rd Annual Seed Pick-Up Days* from April 19 to 21. Please make arrangements with your HDC Field Marketer to pick up your corn and/or soybean seed between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. There will be prepayment options for the various seed manufacturers if you so wish.

All participating customers will be entered into a draw:

- 1st Prize:* \$150.00 Canadian Tire gift certificate
2nd Prize: Win one of three \$50.00 Canadian Tire gift certificates
3rd Prize: Win one of five HDC spring jackets

Lunch will be served from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Thank you for your support . . . it is appreciated!

SOYBEAN RUST: ARE YOU READY?

by Jim Barclay, CCA-ON

There are many uncertainties in agriculture and no guarantee that we'll have to add soybean rust to our list of yield robbers in Ontario. Many experts have offered their opinions and shared results on experiences in South America. One thing is for certain – we can't do anything to prevent the disease in Ontario – BUT, we can have a plan in place if a rust infection occurs.

Widespread infection will depend solely on the weather patterns from our southern neighbours. The timing in which infection occurs will also have a huge impact on the severity of the disease. If soybean rust arrives early, we will definitely have more to worry about. Similar to what we experience in wheat, rust will persist and spread rapidly if conditions are favourable. If soybean rust comes later in the season, during the reproductive phase of the crop, the impact should be much less. Environmental conditions in Ontario during late August to September typically do not favour rust development.

Growers should not worry about whether or not they will get rust, rather, have a plan in place and communicate with your HDC Field Marketer during the growing season. Here are some of the watchouts:

- Monitor the progress of the disease in the United States. If soybean rust infects Ohio and Michigan, get ready – it will likely be invading Ontario.
- Depending on the time of the infestation or threat of infestation, you will need to select the appropriate fungicide. The strobilurins (Headline, Quadris) are classed as protectants whereas the triazoles (Tilt, Folicur) have a curative effect. Your HDC Field Marketer can assist you in selection of the appropriate fungicide.
- Application timing and coverage is important. HDC Rogators are your best option if an outbreak occurs. All HDC Rogators are equipped with the appropriate nozzles.
- Progression of the disease happens fast. Don't be a fence sitter – in a matter of 5 days the rust infection can show few symptoms to severe discolouration. If you can see it from the road it is likely too late. SCOUT THOSE FIELDS EARLY!



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