



Dr. David H. Long, technical crop manager for Seed Care with Syngenta, explained the benefits of Syngenta's new product, Avicta Complete Beans. In his right hand is Avicta Complete Bean roots on about a 20 day old plant. In his left hand side he has a 21 day old soybean plant that has been attacked by root knot nematode and you can see the galls, you can see the less vigorous root system associated with it.

Photo by John LaRose, Jr.

Avicta Complete Beans Offers Nematode Protection

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In several meetings in 2011, Syngenta has launched a new product called Avicta Complete Beans. Dr. David H. Long, technical crop manager for Seed Care with Syngenta, explained the benefits of the product.

"We're here today to let growers, retailers as well as independent crop consultants know about Avicta Complete Beans," he said. "We're very excited about Avicta Complete Beans because it gives nematode options to the growers in the south. We sell a product called Cruiser Max Beans throughout the south for insects and diseases but sometimes the grower has nematode problems too. Temik hasn't been registered in this part of the world for a long time, it's off the market. Farmers didn't have a lot of options, but now with Avicta Complete Beans they have the option to address these nematode issues."

Long explained the makeup of the product, the competition, the nematode the product offers protection against, as well as just a competitive overview of other products and how Syngenta's products add value to the grower.

Avicta Complete Beans is a seed treatment with a combination of insecticide, a fungicide and a nematicide. It is a combination of Cruiser Max Beans plus Avicta.

"We're starting to put soybeans on a lot of our ground that we used to have cotton on, and these fields have nematodes," Long explained. "This product has been showing about a two to three bushel increase over Cruiser Max on this nematode land, and at the prices of beans that's a nice return on investment."

The majority of the soybean growers are using a product called Cruiser Max Beans which has the insecticide, fungicide combination. If you have nematodes, protection with Avicta Complete Beans costs \$5 more per acre.

"That's a heck of a value when you're looking at a two to three bushel increase in yield," he said.

First, farmers need to know whether they have nematodes or not. Not every acre needs Avicta Complete Beans.

"We believe that Cruiser Max Beans has a nice

fit for many soybean fields, but if you have nematodes and you're losing yields to nematodes, Avicta Complete Beans will get you that two or three bushels and it can be the difference in making it or losing it," Long said.

Farmers can see a variety of signs that nematodes are present. One is crop history. As yields start to decline every year, farmers need to question whether it's weeds, diseases, or some other invasion. They also need to look at soil samples. A lot of the growers today have consultants looking at their fields.

"They know about nematodes, they're pretty savvy about nematodes," he continued. "The symptomology for root knot nematodes is an actual visual galling on the plant's roots and some of the others may look like a nutritional deficiency. If you're doing everything on the nutrient side, like putting inoculants and fertilizer out, and you still have plants that don't look good, it may be nematodes causing that problem."

"If you have nematodes in the field they're your lifelong projects because they're always going to be there," Long noted. "So you manage nematodes you never control nematodes."

Early in the season, nematodes basically attack the roots. A seedling is trying to grow and establish a tap root and nematodes, like root knot nematodes, reniform, soybean cyst, or many others, are attacking the roots. Basically that compromises the root system.

"So when you get stress like on a very hot day, the soybean plant can't get the water and basically it loses yield," he said. "Then you see five to 10 bushel yield losses due to nematodes."

Avicta Complete Beans is the first combination product that offers insect, disease and nematode protection, so the grower knows he has all points covered.

"He doesn't need to know if this is going to be the big disease year, the big insect year or the big nematode year," Long said. "Avicta is a seed treatment, easy to use, and all the farmer has to do is open up the bag, pour it in the seed hopper and start planting. And we're seeing positive return on the investment. So I think it is a nice combination package for the grower." Δ

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