

Fields To Be Sampled For Corn Nematodes

URBANA, ILL.

Corn nematodes are the most frequently overlooked cause of corn disease because their injury symptoms are similar to other problems. Incidence of this pest appears to be increasing due to changes in tillage, use of transgenic corn for insect control, and the changing chemistry of certain pesticides.

Since nematodes are microscopic, identification by the unaided eye is impossible. Thus, a soil-root sample needs to be submitted to a laboratory for diagnosis. According to surveys, limited sampling has been done for corn nematodes.

In order to determine "base line" corn nem-

atode specie and population numbers in northern Illinois, four corn fields will be sampled in each of 19 counties, including Ogle County. The random sampling will occur during the next two weeks. Sampling will consist of taking a soil sample representing a ten acre area within each field.

Information learned from the project will provide farmers a starting point for a corn nematode management plan. The corn nematode sampling project is being conducted by University of Illinois Extension and is funded by an Integrated Pest Management grant. For more information call U of I Extension Ogle County at (815) 732-2191. Δ