

Measuring Yield Loss To Soybean Cyst Nematode When Plants Look Healthy

Experts Examine SCN, Soybean Rust and Charcoal Rot on Tour L

MILAN, TENN.

When soybean cyst nematode was first detected in Tennessee in 1956, plants in infested fields were stunted, yellowed and even dried. Now, yield loss still occurs, but the plants are not chlorotic or greatly stunted. The crop may look good until harvest.

“The plants may still look good at harvest,” says Dr. Pat Donald, Research Plant Pathologist with USDA, “however, in increasing number of fields, soybean cyst nematode levels are rising to the point of getting producers’ attention despite producers planting soybean cyst nematode resistant varieties.”

According to Donald, several factors can be attributed to the healthier looking plants in the presence of soybean cyst nematode. These in-

clude increased no-tillage acreage and varieties with improved root health genetics. The study she will be presenting at the Milan No-Till Field Day reports on plant measurements that were taken during the growing season to determine if there were plant indications of stress from soybean cyst nematode. Fewer numbers of flowers have already been documented as a cause of yield loss from soybean cyst nematode. Measurements included NDVI (normalized difference vegetation index), height and grain yield. Soybean cyst nematode levels were measured at planting and at harvest.

This information along with information on soybean rust and charcoal rot will be presented at Tour L: No-Till Disease Control. Tours begin at 9:00 a.m. and last until 3:00 p.m. Gates open at 7:00 a.m. For more information, go to our website: <http://milan.tennessee.edu> or call 731-686-7362. Δ