

# The Root Of Health

## *Increasing Soybean Yield Starts With Protecting Plant Roots*

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One of the challenges that Syngenta is attacking now is we need to pay more attention to root health," said Palle Pedersen, Seed Care Technology Manager with Syngenta. "For us to get closer to the genetic yield potential, we have to get a healthy root system. We simply can't increase the yield potential fast enough if we don't have a strong and healthy root system."

While it's quite possible to get 100 bushel soybeans, most farmers are only getting a 40- to 50-bushel yield.

"For us to bring up the yield, we believe a healthy and stronger root system is essential," he added.

There are many diseases causing root system problems. One of them is the soil-borne disease Rhizoctonia root rot.

"That's a disease that's not necessarily killing

the plants, but it's nibbling or eating on the small roots, which can cause problems particularly under drought conditions," Pedersen said. "Because of that, we are bringing out a new fungicide, Vibrance, to give superior protection against Rhizoctonia root rot.

"CruiserMaxx Beans already has a fungicide combination in it, and now we are adding Vibrance to get more enhanced protection against these yield robbing diseases," he said. CruiserMaxx Beans + Vibrance will be sold as "CruiserMaxx Beans applied with Vibrance," for the 2013 season.

Despite increased awareness within the scientific community, root health remains a relatively low priority for growers. While farmers may think about root health in corn because of corn rootworm, they often don't think about root health in soybeans.

"Yet if we are going to feed the 9 billion people in the world by 2050, we will need a stronger root system in our soybeans to do that," Pedersen summed. Δ



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