

Fact sheet

Soybean cyst nematode

What is Soybean cyst nematode?

Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) (*Heterodera glycines*) is one of the most damaging pests of soybean worldwide. Yield loss caused by this nematode ranges from 30% in fertile soils to complete crop loss under low rainfall conditions. Broadacre hosts include soybean, bean (*Phaseolus* spp.), vetch, lupin and clover.

Several races or strains of SCN occur worldwide and these can be distinguished by their multiplication on different host plants.

What can it be confused with?

Soybean cyst nematode damage can be similar to the effects of some herbicides, nutrient deficiencies or drought stress.

What should I look for?

Above ground symptoms include stunting and yellowing of plants, poor canopy closure, reduced seed size and plant dieback or early plant death. Patches of severely affected plants are often spread in the direction of tillage as cysts are dragged through the soil. SCN damages the roots and affects nutrient uptake, causing nutrient deficiency symptoms to increase.

Below ground symptoms include dark coloured and poorly developed roots. Tiny, lemon shaped cysts can be seen on roots 4-5 weeks after planting. Cysts will be smaller than plant nodules and SCN infection can reduce root nodulation.

How does it spread?

Soybean cyst nematode can be moved in infested soil by water, machinery, humans and stock. Cysts are highly resistant to desiccation, and can survive for many years in dry soil.



Soybean cyst nematode causes stunting and yellowing in patches

CR Grau, University of Wisconsin-Madison



Severe Soybean cyst nematode damage can result in plant death

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Small white cysts on soybean roots

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Cysts of Soybean cyst nematode are smaller than nodules. Roots are poorly formed and darker

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Where is it now?

Soybean cyst nematode is found in most countries where soybean production occurs and has been recorded in China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Egypt, Canada, United States of America, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Italy, Russia and the United Kingdom.

How can I protect my farm from Soybean cyst nematode?

Check your farm frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. When above ground symptoms suggest nematode infestation, check for root damage.

Make sure you are familiar with the symptoms of common grain pests so you can tell if you see something different.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**



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