

# Soybean cyst nematodes found in 57 N.C. counties

Recent findings from a three-year survey of nematode samples by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services point to a wider presence of soybean cyst nematode than previously thought. Evidence of this destructive plant pest has now been found in 57 of the state's 100 counties, up from 52 counties that were previously identified with the pest.

Anson, Catawba, Chatham, Dare and Lincoln counties were added to the list of SCN-positive counties. Dare had been the only county in the eastern part of the state without previous SCN findings.

SCN causes stunted roots, reducing nitrogen-fixing nodules and increasing the plants' susceptibility to other soil-borne pathogens. Stunting and yellowing are two of the most common above-ground symptoms noted, Ye said.

"This was one of the most extensive surveys we have done of nematode samples," said Dr. Weimin Ye, chief of the nematode assay section in the NCDA&CS Agronomic Services Division. "We not only looked at samples that came into the lab, but, additionally, our agronomists collected 244 samples from 28 counties in the western part of the state and also Dare County to give us a comprehensive

look across North Carolina.

"It is important we provide farmers with the best agronomic advice possible, and understanding the scope of plant parasitic nematodes can help our agronomists fine-tune the advice they provide," Ye said.

SCN cannot be eliminated from the soil, but they can be managed to minimize reproduction of the pest and maximize crop yields, Ye added.

Crop rotation and the use of SCN-resistant varieties are the best recommendations for managing the pest. The recommended rotation for control is planting a non-host crop in the first year, followed by a cyst-resistant soybean variety in the second year. That same rotation protocol should follow in year three and four.

The survey was conducted from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2017, with a total of 100,531 grower samples surveyed over that period. In that group, SCN was found in 21,921 samples, just over 21 percent of the samples. Other highlights of the findings include:

Johnston (3,462 positive samples), Wayne (3,274), Nash (2,960), Wilson (2,039) and Pasquotank (1,513) had the most SCN-positive samples. Only Wayne falls in the top 10 counties for soybean production.

Montgomery (831, average of SCN per 500 cc of soil), Bladen

(790), Washington (610), Carteret (607) and Harnett (368) counties were found to have the highest SCN population levels.

"Farmers with questions about managing SCN can contact their regional agronomist for advice on a plan for better managing this pest," said Dr. Colleen Hudak-Wise, director of the Agronomic Division. "It is a free service, and agronomist can

often help troubleshoot problems in an early stage, allowing growers to take corrective measures to improve crop yield."

Regional agronomists are part of the Field Services Section of the department's Agronomic Services Division. They provide advice on crop fertilization, nutrient management, lime needs, soil testing, plant tissue analysis, use of animal wastes and com-

posts, nematode analysis, and testing of source water and nutrient solutions. To find a regional agronomist for your area, go to [www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/rahome.htm](http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/rahome.htm).

Growers with nematode-specific concerns or questions can contact Ye at 919-733-2655 or by email at [weimin.ye@ncagr.gov](mailto:weimin.ye@ncagr.gov).

Map of soybean cyst nematode distribution in North Carolina and average soybean cyst nematode population from each county.

## Bucolic briefs

Research stations across the state are hosting the following field days:

**Peanut Field Day, Sept. 7, Peanut Belt Research Station in Lewiston-Woodville. Contact David Jordan, 919-515-4068.**

**SE Peanut Field Day, Sept. 12, Border Belt Research Station in Whiteville. Contact David Jordan, 919-515-4068.**

**Bio Energy Field Day, Sept. 13, Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Mills River. Contact Allison Medlin, 919-693-2483.**

**Beef Cattle Field Day, Oct. 28 at 9 p.m., Upper Piedmont Research Station in Reidsville. Contact Joe French, 336-349-8347.**

\*\*\*

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln County Apple Festival will be Sept. 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Main Street in Lincoln. The festival features regional crafts, food, music, kids' activities and local apples. For more information, contact Carole Howell, 2017 festival coordinator, at 704-530-4636 or go to [www.LincolnCountyAppleFestival.com](http://www.LincolnCountyAppleFestival.com).

\*\*\*

The 76<sup>th</sup> Annual N.C. Gourd Arts and Crafts Festival will be held Nov. 4-5 at the Holshouser Building at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. The festival features displays of gourds from around the world, special gourd workshops, vendors of dried gourds, seeds, crafts, arts and more. The event includes a variety of competition categories, with ribbons and prizes awarded to winners. There will be a live auction at noon on Nov. 4, and free gourd crafting tables for kids. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$2 for adults and free for kids under 16 years old. For more information on competitions and workshops, go to [www.ncgourdsociety.org/festival](http://www.ncgourdsociety.org/festival) or call 919-696-0744.

\*\*\*

Increase your natural beekeeping knowledge through a one-day seminar with beekeeper Michael Bush Oct. 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Johnston County Ag Center in Smithfield. Bush is a world-renowned author, speaker and proponent of natural beekeeping methods. Cost is \$40 and a hot lunch is included. The event is sponsored by N.C. Bee Education and Training Inc. To sign up, go to <https://midnightbeesupply.com/product/michael-bush-apalooza-tickets/>, <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eaea62da5fd0-michael> or email for application to [info4beti@earthlink.net](mailto:info4beti@earthlink.net). To learn more about Bush and his beekeeping methods, go to [bushfarms.com](http://bushfarms.com). NCBETI is also hosting a three-day intensive beekeeping course Sept. 9 and 23 and Oct. 7 in Vass. More info by email at [info4beti@earthlink.net](mailto:info4beti@earthlink.net).

\*\*\*

As a way to help farmers and agricultural workers stay safe at work, the N.C. Department of Labor offers safety videos on a variety of topics through its YouTube channel. Video topics include: preventing green tobacco sickness, hazard communication, tobacco harvester safety, heat stress, migrant housing requirements, forklift safety, and information about the NCDOL's Gold Star Growers program. The videos are in English and Spanish to increase understanding of safety hazards and preventing accidents. To learn more about the NCDOL and the Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau, go to [www.nclabor.com](http://www.nclabor.com) or call 1-800-NC-LABOR (800-625-2267). NCDOL is also on Facebook and Twitter (@NCDOL).

\*\*\*

Beekeepers with bees for rent and growers interested in bee pollination services can post their information on the BeeLinked website at [www.ncagr.com/beelinked](http://www.ncagr.com/beelinked). The site is hosted by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the N.C. State University Apiculture Program. Anyone interested in listing their information can do so by filling out an online Submit Your Ad form on the BeeLinked page or by contacting NCDA&CS at 919-233-8214 or by email at [NCHoneybee@ncagr.gov](mailto:NCHoneybee@ncagr.gov) or call NCSU at 919-515-1660. The NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division regulates the movement of agricultural or related items capable of spreading harmful insects, diseases, and other pests. Beekeepers participating in this program will be required to comply with all honey and bee industry regulations.

\*\*\*

The N.C. Ag Finance Authority provides credit to agriculture in areas where financing is not available at reasonable rates and terms. The agency originates, services and finances farm loans, rural business loans, disaster loans and cotton gin loans. It also offers tax-exempt ag development bonds for agribusiness processing, ag-related manufacturing or ag waste disposal. For more about Ag Finance Authority programs or to request a loan application, call 919-790-3949 or email at [RequestLoanInfo@ncagr.gov](mailto:RequestLoanInfo@ncagr.gov).

\*\*\*



Hive fives for the N.C. Farm to School Program, which marks 20 years of service. The program helps put healthy, locally grown produce into school cafeterias across the state. It has produced around \$13 million in sales in that time, which provides a boost to participating farmers and the N.C. economy.

## Horizon

(Continued from pg. 1)

Plantation, Myrtle Beach;

**Dec. 3** -- N.C. Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting, Koury Center, Sheraton Hotel, Greensboro;

**Jan. 10-12** -- 29th Annual N.C. Commodities Conference, Sheraton Imperial, Durham;

**Jan. 21-23** -- U.S. Sweet Potato Convention, Wilmington.

## Troxler

(Continued from pg. 1)

tode-resistant varieties.

It's hard for me to believe we are entering the final quarter of 2017. It seems like just a few days ago I was talking about my optimism for the New Year and the arrival of the first fruits to the farmers markets, and now we are nine months in and there is no shortage of commodities in the markets. Let's all hope for a strong finish.