



Root-knot Nematodes on Irish Potatoes

www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/uyrnem.htm

Root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne* species) seriously damage the roots and tubers of Irish potatoes when soil temperatures are warm. However, in North Carolina, the soil temperatures are rarely high enough in the spring for the nematodes to do significant damage. Therefore, nematicides are seldom recommended for control of root-knot nematodes in early spring plantings. Late spring potatoes are much more likely to be damaged by these nematodes, and nematicide use is recommended when populations exceed threshold values. In addition to root-knot nematodes, lesion nematodes (*Pratylenchus* species, especially *P. penetrans*) often damage Irish potatoes in the northeastern region of North Carolina.

For Additional Assistance

- Call your NCDA&CS regional agronomist or the Agronomic Division office in Raleigh (919-733-2655).
- Visit the NCDA&CS Agronomic Division Web site at www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/.
- Visit your county Cooperative Extension office.
- Refer to one or more of the following online publications:
 - ***Irish and sweet potato diseases***
(Clemson Extension, 2004)
— hgic.clemson.edu/factsheets/HGIC2214.htm
 - ***Plant susceptibility to major nematodes in Georgia***
(University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, 2001)
— pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/B904.pdf

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