

## Yellowing leaves on soybeans? That has to be a potassium deficiency, right? Maybe not.

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While yellowing in the middle or upper canopy is usually a sign of potassium deficiency, it could mean something worse is lurking below the soil surface. Often, a superficial glance isn't enough to get to the root of the problem. Going through a checklist to eliminate potential causes provides the best chance at proper diagnosis and treatment.

- Potassium deficiency
- Herbicide damage
- Fungal disease
- Pest pressure
- Lack of water

If those are ruled out, the answer could be underground. Soybean cyst nematodes (SCN), the tiny, worm-like parasites, can decrease yields substantially without inducing obvious symptoms. However, SCN can produce yellow leaves when populations are high. SCN management comes in two forms: Preventing the infestation of fields and reducing the nematode populations in infested fields.

Did you know that:

- Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN) was first found in the U.S. in North Carolina in 1954?
- SCN is the most serious soybean pest in the U.S. and causes more than \$1 billion in soybean yield losses each year?
- SCN is a microscopic roundworm that occurs in all major soybean production areas?
- SCN causes no specific symptoms, and its effects are often not dramatic?
- Many growers do not know they have a problem until a severe infestation develops.
- Yield losses due to SCN can be over 50%?

Understanding the life cycle of SCN, routine soil testing and proper crop management can reduce the incidence of this pest.

### Wisconsin's Free SCN Testing Program

Fall is a great time to collect extra samples for Soybean Cyst Nematode testing. Through a grant from the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, Wisconsin growers are eligible to have 4 soil samples analyzed for SCN and other plant parasitic nematodes **at no charge**.

**Want to test? Request a free soil sampling kit!**

By email: [freescntest@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:freescntest@mailplus.wisc.edu)

By phone: 608-262-1390