

## SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE SAMPLING PROCEDURE

### I. DIAGNOSTIC

This procedure is used to determine whether soybean cyst nematodes are present in the field.

#### TIME TO SAMPLE

Can be performed any time of the year, but it is best if done when soybeans are showing above ground symptoms.

#### AREA TO SAMPLE

Take an equal number of samples from problem areas and areas that appear to be normal.

### II. PREDICTIVE

This procedure is used to determine the extent of the soybean cyst nematode infestation and to determine management decisions based on the amount of infestation.

#### TIME TO SAMPLE

Usually done in the fall after plants are harvested, in fields that are to be planted in soybeans the following year and are suspected or confirmed to be infested with soybean cyst nematode. Sampling in the spring would give more accurate results, but would leave little time for altering management decisions based on the extent of the nematode population.

#### AREA TO SAMPLE

Divide field into 10-15 acre areas and collect separate samples from each area. Collect the soil in a zig-zag pattern within the sampling area.

### III. DIAGNOSTIC AND PREDICTIVE

#### HOW TO SAMPLE

Using either a 1-inch soil probe or a shovel collect 10-20 sub-samples within the sampling area. Sampling depth should be 6-8 inches near the base of the plant, if it is still present. Mix the soil in a bucket thoroughly and then place about a pint in either a plastic or waxcoated paper bag. The samples should be kept cool and tested as soon as possible. **The only time soil samples should not be collected is when soil conditions are very wet.**

#### KEY POINT

When notified ahead and properly labeled, a cyst nematode test can be run from the same soil sample taken for regular soil testing.

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