MANAGING NEMATODES IN THE MIDWEST

The midwestern U.S. is home to the major production areas of important crops like corn and soybeans. These crops are susceptible to microscopic parasitic worms, called nematodes. Nematodes can damage soil health and crop quality, resulting in significant crop losses.

To address the agricultural, economic, and environmental consequences of parasitic nematodes, land-grant university researchers across the region are working together to better understand nematodes and how to manage them. This research is helping sustain profitability for farmers and a steady supply of corn and soybeans we use for feed, food, and fuel.

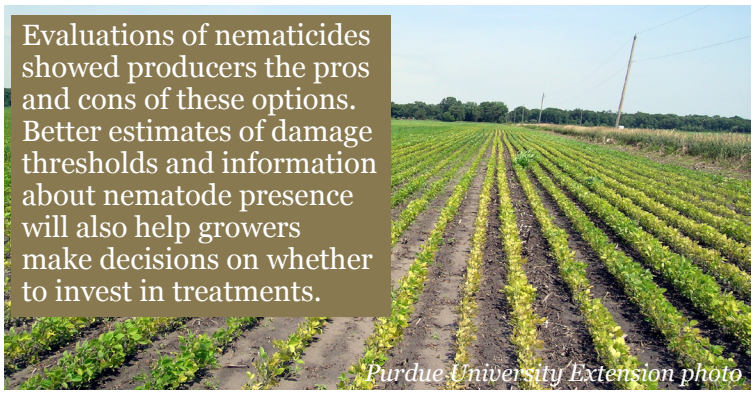
New soil sampling methods and soil data are helping growers manage soil health to suppress nematodes and boost yields.

A standardized risk index, new diagnostic tools and sampling guidelines, and coordinated efforts for assessing nematode threats in the Midwest has increased awareness among growers and led to earlier detection of threats and more efficient responses.

Access to results from test plots and evaluations has helped producers select crop varieties and practices that best suit their needs.

Iowa State University photo

Evaluations of nematicides showed producers the pros and cons of these options. Better estimates of damage thresholds and information about nematode presence will also help growers make decisions on whether to invest in treatments.



Purdue University Extension photo

Data on the distribution and virulence of soybean cyst nematode types have led to more nuanced management recommendations and guided breeding of highly resistant soybean varieties.

University of Minnesota Extension photo

Development of soybean varieties that are resistant to soybean cyst nematodes will increase soybean production and profitability in infested environments.

University of Minnesota Extension photo

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For more information, visit: *bit.ly/NC-1197*