

SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE AND WINTER ANNUAL WEEDS IN INDIANA: DISTRIBUTION AND PRODUCER CONCERN. J. Earl Creech and William G. Johnson, Graduate Research Assistant and Assistant Professor, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907.

Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is a threat to profitable soybean production in Indiana and throughout the soybean growing regions of the U.S. Research has shown that a number of winter annual weed species can serve as alternate hosts for SCN. However, the presence of winter annuals in SCN infested fields has not been documented. The objectives of this research were to (1) document the distribution of winter annual weeds in SCN infested fields in Indiana and (2) assess grower concern regarding SCN and its potential interaction with winter annual weeds. A field survey was conducted in the spring of 2004 in 72 grower fields throughout Indiana. These fields were selected from those identified from previous statewide sampling surveys to be infested with SCN. The winter annual weeds that occurred with the highest frequency (in % of fields sampled) were common chickweed (87%), speedwell (84%), buttercup (58%), henbit (53%) and purple deadnettle (49%). Winter annual weed hosts of SCN were common in grower fields and many of these weeds were present at very high densities (100 or more plants m⁻²). A second survey was conducted in winter 2003-04 to assess practices and attitudes regarding SCN and winter annual weeds in Indiana. Questionnaires were distributed to 3000 farmers and 750 attendees at Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) meetings. Statewide, 86% of CCA's were aware that some winter annual weeds could serve as hosts for SCN compared to 62% of producers. Also in the survey, 62% of producers expressed moderate to high levels of concern about SCN impacts on their soybean production; but only 39% employed management practices specifically aimed at managing SCN and merely 21% of soybean producers reported having had their fields sampled for SCN.