

How to take soil samples for SCN Testing

The equipment you need for sampling soil for soybean cyst nematode is the same equipment you use for taking a soil sample for soil nutrient analysis: a soil probe, a bucket, and a plastic soil bag.

To collect soil samples for SCN diagnosis, we recommend you collect 10 to 20 of cores of soil, each with 1 inch-diameter and 6 to 8 inches-depth in a 20-acre area. If the field is larger, break the field into 20-acre units and take 10 to 20 cores per unit.

Take cores from within root zones and use a zig-zag or M-pattern to collect soil cores. In addition, you may also want to include samples from a high-risk area, such as near a field entrance, areas where the yield seems to be a little lower than the last time soybeans were grown, or along fence lines where wind-blown soil accumulates.

Bulk the cores in a container and mix thoroughly. Take the time to mix the sample. The better the sample is mixed the better it represents the whole field. Put ~ 500 cm³ or 1 pint of the thoroughly mixed soil in a plastic bag and label it with a permanent marker. Don't put a paper label inside the bag. The moist soil will make it unreadable by the time the sample reaches us.

Please keep the sample at room temperature or cooler and keep out of the sun or hot truck cab until you are ready to pack and ship it. Pack the samples in a box and cushion the samples with packing material so the bags don't break open during shipping. Please fill out the attached form, including your name, address, phone number and email address and send with your sample. Be sure to indicate the county where the sample was collected and any field designation needed to help you identify the location when your results are sent. The collection form can also be downloaded from this website: <https://ag.purdue.edu/btny/ppdl/Pages/physicalspecimens.aspx>

Ship to: Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory
LSPS-Room 116, Purdue University
915 W. State Street
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2054
Phone: 765-494-7071

SCN Coalition: <https://www.thescncoalition.com/>

SCOUTING AND SOIL TESTING FOR SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE.

What's your number?

Take the test. Beat the pest.

The SCN Coalition
Funded by the soybean checkoff

TWO WAYS to scout for SCN.

1 Dig roots and look for females. (Dig, don't pull.)

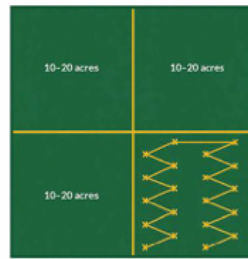


2 Collect soil samples for testing.

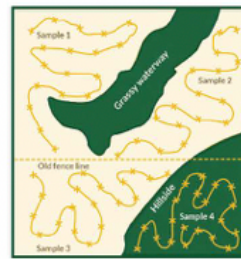


THREE APPROACHES to collecting soil samples.

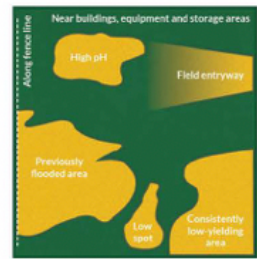
Collect 15-20 (or more) 1-inch-diameter core samples, 8 inches deep, for every 20 acres. Mix the cores well, put the mixed soil into a soil sample bag and send it to an SCN testing lab.



1 Collect soil cores using a zigzag pattern.



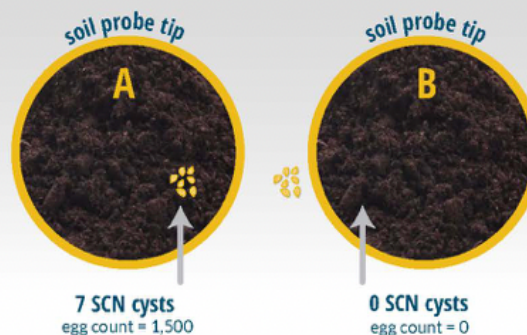
2 Collect soil cores from logical areas or management zones in the field.



3 Collect soil cores from high-risk areas in the field where SCN might first be discovered.

WHY SCN SOIL TEST results are variable.

It all depends on where you put the probe. A ½-inch difference can mean the difference between zero and 1,500 eggs. (Each cyst can hold 200 to 250 eggs.)



WHEN to sample.

- Fall in a non-host crop.
- Fall in soybean stubble.
- Spring before a soybean crop.
- During the season in the soybean crop root zone.

Visit [TheSCNcoalition.com](https://www.thescncoalition.com/) for more information.