

Nematode Damage in Alfalfa

How Much Do You Know about Nematode Damage in Alfalfa?

1. Stem Nematode causes some alfalfa stems to turn white.



2. Root Knot Nematodes damage alfalfa and Potatoes.



3. Root Knot Nematode damage on alfalfa is sometime confused with a beneficial organism called Rhizobium (N. Fix bacteria) that grows on alfalfa roots.



4. Root Knot Nematode and Stem Nematode causes circular stunted areas in alfalfa fields.



5. Root Knot Nematodes found in Potatoes are the same nematode that damages alfalfa roots.

6. Root Knot Nematode Produces galls, and Lesion does not produce galls only dark patches "LESIONS" on the root bark.

7. Lesion nematode in alfalfa is the same species that damages corn.



8. Stem nematode damage is generally seen on Crown buds & Lower stem parts of the alfalfa plant.

9. Nematodes that damage alfalfa can only be seen under magnification, (Pictured is an actual Nematode in the eye of a Sewing Needle)



10. Since Nematodes cycle through the plant and soil; Chemical control is very difficult. The most economic control is a genetic resistant alfalfa variety.

11. Nematodes can persist in the soil for several years, even if the ground is fallowed.



12. Farmers must identify what nematode is present in their field and select a alfalfa variety that has resistance to that nematode species.?

