X. 2007 Virginia Corn Board Nematode Survey Results
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During the 2007 growing season, the Virginia Corn Board provided funding for a corn nematode survey in an effort to better understand the extent of the threat nematodes are to corn yields in eastern Virginia, make revisions in nematode-control recommendations, and evaluate current varieties and hybrids. The survey was conducted on fields that were suspected of having nematodes. Forty-seven samples were submitted to the lab for analysis. Given current recommendations, populations high enough to lower yield and warrant control measures were found in 47% of the corn fields, and 29% of corn fields were classified as having borderline populations in which crop damage may occur if other factors stress the crop. The most common nematodes found were stubby root, lance, and sting. These potentially damaging populations of nematodes warrant further study and research. Shifts in nematode populations are expected with farming practices that include: conversion to continuous no-till; the movement away from wheat in the crop rotation; changes in corn genetics; and the conversion from in-furrow insecticide/nematicide treatments to seed-applied treatments in corn.

The following table provides a summary of the results. The key for the recommend column is as follows: A – Nematode problem not detected; B – Possible nematode problem; C – Nematodes are a problem, control options are advisable. Numbers are reported as the number of nematodes per 500 cc’s of soil (approximately one pint.)

We will be studying the survey results further this winter in an effort to determine the next steps in getting a better handle on nematode management in corn in eastern Virginia.