

Arva, Ontario, March 11, 2009

1. What are soybean aphids and what causes aphid infestations?

Soybean aphids are an extremely destructive plant-eating insect that cause significant soybean yield losses in Ontario. Infestation usually begins when a small number of winged aphids deposit their young on the leaf of the plant to feed. As the young aphids increase in size they begin reproducing at a rapid rate causing the population to explode. Aphid infestations affect soybean plants in three ways:

- The removal of sap
- The reduction in photosynthesis
- The transmission of viral diseases

Soybean crops that experience aphid infestations suffer from decreased growth resulting in reduced pod and seed production.

2. What effect do aphid infestations have on farmers in Ontario?

It is estimated that growers in Ontario experience losses of \$50-\$150 per acre as a result of aphid infestations (based on current market value). The estimated losses include:

- Five to 15 bu/acre average yield losses caused by aphid infestations
- Continued monitoring of the aphid infestation
- Loss in profit as a result of decreased crop quality

3. How do growers usually prevent or manage aphid infestations?

Growers rely on seed treatments and beneficial insects, such as ladybird beetles to protect their crops. When the threshold is above 250 aphids per plant, growers spray crops with insecticides to control the aphid population.

4. How does the new aphid resistant soybean technology prevent soybean infestations?

The aphid resistant trait found in the new Syngenta Seeds, NK[®] Brand aphid resistant soybean seeds is a natural defense found rarely in some soybean plants. This trait offers effective antibiosis resistance against soybean aphids leaving beneficial insects, such as lady bugs and lacewings, unharmed. When soybean aphids feed on the plant, the aphid resistant trait forces them to stop eating and reproducing. At the end of their life cycle the affected soybean aphids will die without having produced enough young to continue the infestation.

5. What results have been obtained from field research?

The field research conducted at the Arva Research Station in London has shown the following results for the new aphid resistant soybean variety:

- Plots containing treated seeds with the new aphid resistant trait experienced no more than 90 soybean aphids per plant – a dramatic reduction when compared to the over 400 aphids per plant that were observed on plants without the aphid resistant trait.
- The aphid resistant variety of seeds produced greater yields and a better quality crop.

6. This is the first product of its kind in North America; how will this product change soybean agriculture in Canada?

The new Syngenta Seeds, NK Brand aphid resistant soybean seeds are expected to change soybean agricultural practices in Canada in four important ways:

- When incorporated into an integrated management system this new technology defends crops against soybean aphids without harming the beneficial insects that growers depend on for the protection and development of their crops.
- The introduction of these new seeds will make Canadian soybean growers more competitive in the international export market as the soybeans produced from these seeds have proven to be better in size and quality when compared to those produced from aphid infested plants without the aphid resistant trait.
- This new technology eliminates the need for overall spraying with insecticides during years when infestations are over threshold.

- The Syngenta Aphid Management System, which combines seed treatments such as Cruiser Maxx® as well as the aphid resistant technology, helps to promote sustainable farming practices by reducing the likelihood of resistance development.

7. Are the new aphid resistant soybean seeds GMOs?

No. The new aphid resistant seeds have been developed using traditional plant breeding methods.

8. What variety is being introduced?

The variety is named S22-A1, an early group II maturity.

9. What is an Aphid Management System (AMS)?

An Aphid Management System is a Syngenta stewardship program to combat aphid infestations. The Syngenta Aphid Management System begins with a native soybean trait that has been bred to possess an aphid-resistant genetic trait – but it doesn't stop there. The system also goes on the offensive with the Syngenta approach to trait stewardship. The result is a proactive, industry-leading approach to aphid management that charges from the gate and doesn't let up all season long.

- Seed treatment with Cruiser Maxx®
- Aphid resistance trait in certified NK Brand seed
- Monitor for population shifts or resistant biotypes
- Spray with Matador® if population exceeds threshold levels

10. What are the variety characteristics?

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| • Relative Maturity (CHU) | 3050 |
| • Seed Size (X100) | 53-57 |
| • Hilum Color | Black |
| • Plant Height | Medium |
| • Canopy | Intermediate |
| • Protein % | 41 |
| • Oil % | 21 |

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