



## WHITE MOLD IN SOYBEAN QUICK FACTS

### IMPACT ON YOUR CROP

- White mold, or sclerotinia stem rot, can infect high yield potential soybeans, possibly reducing seed number and size.
- Soybean fields infected with white mold can have reduced grain quality at harvest, resulting in price discounts.

Each 10% increase in white mold infected soybean plants at the R7 growth stage has been estimated to result in a 2 to 5 bu/acre yield loss.

### TIPS TO MANAGE

- Rotate to a non-host crop for 3 to 4 years and control potential weed hosts.
- Restrict tillage to limit spread of disease throughout the field. Sclerotia can survive in the soil for more than 7 years.
- Select soybean products with a tolerance to white mold.
- Reduce plant populations to open canopy.
- In fields with previous white mold outbreaks, apply a fungicide during flowering if environmental conditions are favorable for disease development.

### WHAT TO SCOUT

- Moist conditions with below average temperatures and a dense canopy.
- White, fluffy, cottony mycelial growth on stems and pods.
- Wilted leaves.
- Soybean stems that may be shredded or appear “bleached”.
- Presence of sclerotia (small, black structures) on the outside and inside of infected soybean plants.



Figure 1. White mycelial growth on a soybean stem.



Figure 2. Soybean stem that appears “bleached”.



Figure 3. Sclerotia present on the outside of soybean pods.

For additional resources on this topic, contact your local seed representative or visit your seed brand website. Developed in partnership with Technology, Development & Agronomy by Monsanto.

#### Sources:

Esker, P., Peltier, A., Bradley, C., Chilvers, M., Malvick, D., Mueller, D., and Wise, K. 2011. Management of white mold in soybean. North Central Soybean Research Program. <http://www.iasoybeans.com/>. Dorrance, A.E., and Mills, D. 2008. Sclerotinia stem rot (white mold) of soybean. The Ohio State University Extension. AC-45-08. <http://ohioline.osu.edu/>. Smith, D., Wise, K., Chilvers, M., Bradley, C., and Mueller, D. 2014. Managing white mold in soybean. University of Wisconsin Extension. <http://fyi.uwex.edu/>. Web sources verified 08/05/15.

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