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Soybean cyst nematode: Challenges and opportunities for sustained, profitable soybean production

Gregory Tylka

Iowa State University, gtylka@iastate.edu

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What happens during pathogen infections in crop plants?

Steve Whitham, professor, Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Iowa State University

Plants have sophisticated immune systems that provide protection against most microorganisms. However, pathogens that are able cause disease have the ability to disrupt plant defenses. Recent research has shown that there is extensive communication between plants and microorganisms, and that there are multiple layers to effective disease resistance. This presentation will introduce the audience to concepts in plant disease resistance and the offensive weapons that pathogens use as they attempt to overcome plant defenses.