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- ✓ Jan 20 - 22, 2019. 57th National Sweet Potato Convention at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans. More info at

Special Note:

A new root knot nematode, Peach Root Knot Nematode *Meloidogyne floridensis*, has been found in Atwater that may be able to overcome the genetic resistance in our current varieties.

Scott Stoddard,
Farm Advisor



October, 2018

FIELD MEETING OCTOBER 3, 2018, WITH LSU PLANT BREEDER DR. DON LaBONTE

Please join me on Wednesday, October 3 for a brief field day to see examples of the Advanced Line Trial (ALT). This year there are about 40 entries from NCSU and LSU. Samples will be on display at the field. The trial emphasizes red-skin varieties, but there are also sweets, Japanese, and even some purple/purples. Other discussion items: the licensing program, new root knot nematodes, wireworm management, and North Carolina crop impacts from Hurricane Florence. Taco Truck lunch provided.

Sweetpotato ALT Harvest Field Day

Wednesday, Oct 3, noon - 2:00 pm

Field location: NW corner Atwater Jordan and Bert Crane Rd.

Lunch for the first 30 attendees

Special Guest: Dr. Don LaBonte, LSU

General Notes:

The annual sweet potato convention will be held in New Orleans this year, January 20-22, 2019. This is likely to be the last time that Louisiana will host this meeting. Registration and room reservations information can be found at <https://sweetpotatoconvention2019.com>

Harvest-to-date suggests we have good yields, but quality may be impacted by higher than normal wireworm damage. Damage may be from both true wireworm (larvae of click beetles, family Elateridae) and false wireworm (larvae of darkling beetles, Family Tenebrionidae). The random scattering of holes has been called 'shotgun' by growers in Australia. Both species can cause this type of damage. According to Dr. Tara Smith, Entomologist at LSU, the smaller holes are more likely due to recent feeding rather than differences between the two species.

Management guidelines are the same: pre-plant soil insecticides, incorporated to 8-10". Efficacy is better if the topsoil is moist at application. Fields with high organic matter are more likely to have problems; crop rotation can help.