



collected one five pound bag of piler dirt for each five acres of seed potato field. During the fall harvest, fields growing seed potatoes for export were sampled at a rate of one pound of soil per acre.

The samples were trucked to DATCP's Plant Industry Laboratory in Madison, where the soil was washed through screens to separate out nematode cysts. Each sample was then examined for cysts under a dissecting microscope. Cyst-like objects were transferred to vials and examined by a trained nematologist before a sample was confirmed negative. For final identification and confirmation, USDA required suspect cysts to be examined by a National Identifier.

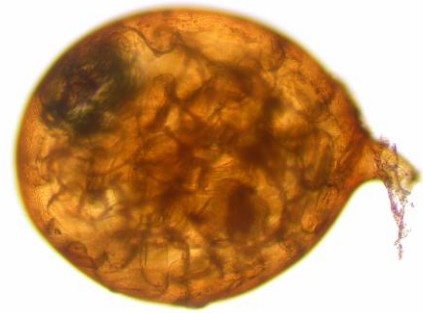


Figure 2. Tobacco cyst nematode, a PCN look-alike from Virginia.

2008 Potato Cyst Nematode Survey

3,050 acres of seed potato fields sampled

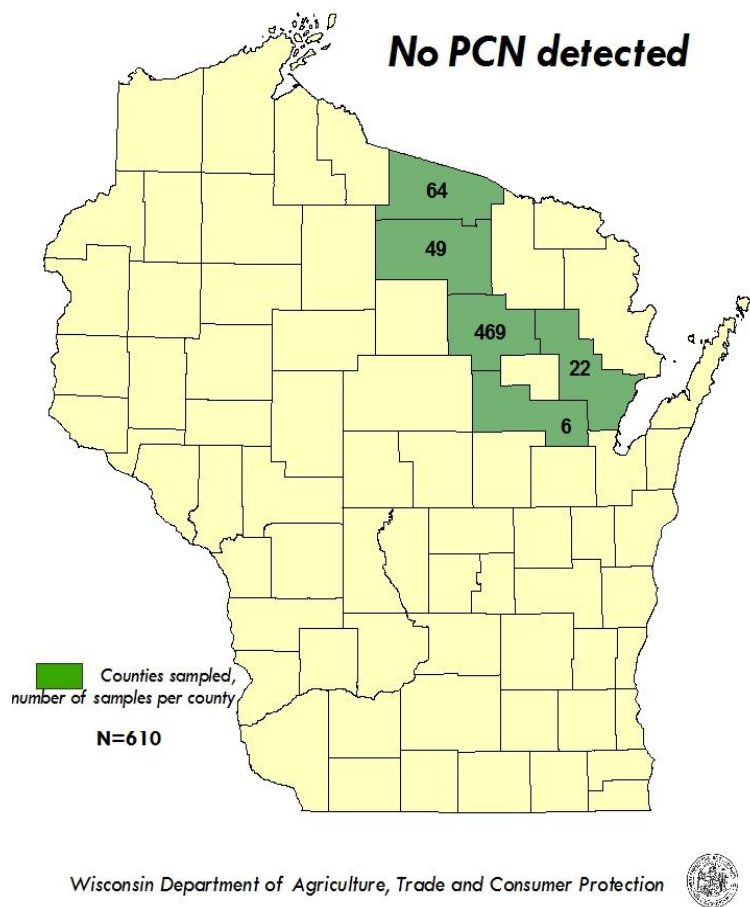


Figure 3.

Conclusion

The 2007 and 2008 survey data showed that Wisconsin potato growing areas are free from potato cyst nematodes.

DATCP staff have been collecting soil samples from fields and potato storage facilities in Wisconsin for golden cyst nematode since 1982. The surveys varied in scope and were funded by the USDA's Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program. A total of 6336 samples have been screened for PCN over the course of 27 years (**Figure 4**). No Golden cyst nematode had ever been found in Wisconsin.

The 2007 and 2008 surveys of unusually intensive scope that involved collecting, shipping and screening over 4 tons of piler dirt and soil in 2007 and 1.3 tons in 2008. It was made possible thanks to the close cooperation and determined effort by Wisconsin seed growers,

DATCP's field staff at the Fruit & Vegetable Inspection Service in Antigo, and the staff at Madison's Plant Industry Laboratory.

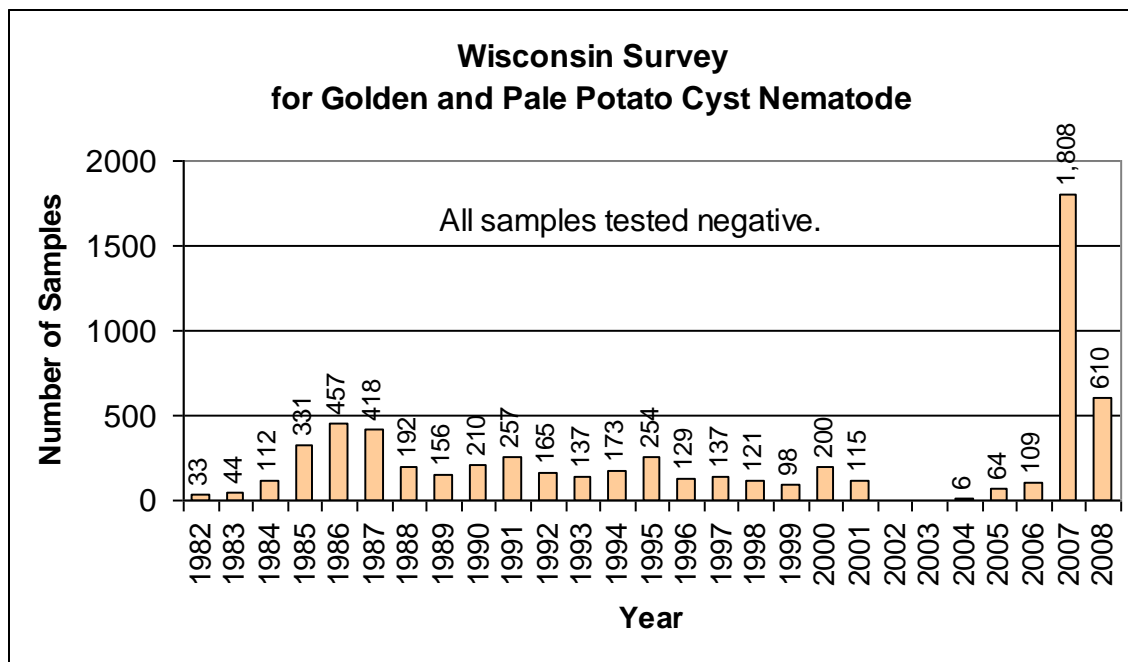


Figure 4. Number of soils and piler dirt samples screened each year.

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