


amples, the yield decrease from 2002 to 2005 was more severe for sweet potato (-50%) than for wheat (-9%), while corn yields increased from 6.3 t/ha in 2001 to 9.0 t/ha (+43%) in 2005. Thus, gains in corn productivity were received at the expense of declining sweet potato productivity.

Since corn and sweet potato were interplanted, this sharp contrast is most likely a reflection of the two crops' strong competition for sunlight, moisture, and nutrients. Given the importance of corn to the region, farmers will continue to explore their potential for making further gains in corn yields. Sweet potato carries a much lower market price and storage of this crop is more demanding, both in terms of space and ambient environment. Regardless, some balance in this productivity trade-off is required. In such intercropping systems, farmers are advised to manage crop competition through adjustments in plant density and/or planting date so that

yields in both crops can be sustained at the desired, albeit compromised levels. 

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Recognizing Soybean Field Problems

Understanding how various nutrient imbalances, disease risks, and other factors threaten soybean plant health, production, and seed quality can be valuable in diagnosing and preventing field problems.

Shown on this page are a few examples illustrating symptoms from the IPNI publication titled *Be Your Own Soybean Doctor*. It is intended to help growers, consultants, and others in becoming more familiar with symptoms of nutrient deficiencies, toxicities, diseases, and other disorders in soybean production. While it does not substitute for diagnostic tools such as plant tissue analysis and soil testing, the guide can be useful in

distinguishing and identifying various field problems. It features 40 color illustrations with brief discussion of each.

The full color publication is 8 pages, 8 ½ x 11 in., and patterned after the classic *Be Your Own Corn Doctor*, which has been widely used for many years. *Be Your Own Soybean Doctor* is available for 50 cents (US\$0.50) per copy, plus shipping/handling. Discounts are available on quantity orders.

Contact: Circulation Department, IPNI, 3500 Parkway Lane, Suite 550, Norcross, GA 30092-2806; phone 770-825-8082 or 825-8084; fax 770-448-0439. 

