

AGRONOMIC ALERT



Late Planting Soybean Recommendations—Southern IL

Due to the excessive rains in some areas this spring, many farmers will be planting soybeans later than normal. Late planting of soybeans requires a few more management considerations, such as soybean maturity, row spacing and weed control, planting rates, and insurance options.

Soybean Maturity

In the beginning of June, switching early maturity soybeans to fuller season soybean adapted for the area is recommended. The reasons behind this is that early maturity soybeans might not reach adequate height for setting pods to help maximize yield potential. In southern Illinois, planting Group 4 soybeans is preferred, because a soybean earlier than 3.5 will not achieve adequate height for setting pods.

In most years, even the late maturing beans reach maturity before frost with some time to spare. However, toward the end of June it is time to consider switching full season soybeans to mid season soybeans to minimize the risk of frost damage in the fall.

Row Spacing and Weed Control

Weed management is a priority for late-planted soybeans due to the lack of a canopy to compete with weeds. Row spacing should also be less than 30 inches (if feasible) to hasten canopy closure and increase sunlight interception and biomass accumulation.

Planting Rates

Planting rates should increase 10% to 15% due in part to smaller plants with later planting.

Replanting to Soybeans

When a field originally intended for corn is being switched to soybeans, it is important to know if any corn herbicides have been applied. If not, soybeans can likely be planted. However, if corn herbicides have been applied, herbicide plant-back restrictions found on the labels should be followed.

Insurance Options

Contact your local insurance agent for insurance coverage and options. In addition, the USDA Risk Management Agency has developed the following web page of fact sheets and examples: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/news/currentissues/>

Considerations for Late Planting of Soybeans

- In early June, consider switching early maturing soybeans to later maturing soybeans (by 0.5 to 1.0 maturity groups) adapted to the area to maximize height and yield potential.
- Later in June, consider switching full season soybeans to mid season soybeans to help reduce the risk of frost damage in the fall.
- Narrow rows or a drill should be used where feasible.
- Planting rate should be increased 10% to 15%.
- Weeds should be controlled early.
- If switching intended crop to soybeans, consider the effects of herbicides that have been applied.
- Evaluate insurance options.

[prevented/index.html](#), which includes examples for both soybeans and corn.

In summary, late planting can have a significant effect on soybean yield potential. Previous research from Iowa State University and Purdue University indicates farmers can expect 60% to 80% of the maximum yield potential when planting is done around June 15th to 20th. As June 30th approaches, yield potential decreases to 45% to 70% of the maximum yield potential.

Sources: P. Pedersen. 2008. How late can soybeans be planted? Iowa State University, Integrated Crop Management News. June 2, 2008.

Purdue University Corn & Soybean Field Guide. 2007 edition.

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