

AGRONOMIC ALERT



Minnesota Late Soybean Planting Recommendations

- As planting time approaches and wet soils remain across much of Minnesota, many growers may be thinking about switching to earlier maturity soybean products to offset late planting.
- Yield potential can be maintained with full-season soybean products if row spacing, weeds, and aphids are managed.
- Switching to earlier maturity soybean products for late-planting situations should not be an automatic decision.

Soybean Maturity

Late planted soybeans do not develop the same canopy and biomass as the same soybean variety planted earlier. Yield potential decreases as planting dates become later (Table 1). The University of Minnesota recommends planting full-season soybean products until June 10.¹ Full-season soybean products flower later and will get more height and canopy prior to flowering than early-maturing soybean products.

The time from flowering to harvest maturity is controlled by the maturity group for a specific product. Although the time from flowering to harvest maturity is generally the same when a soybean product is planted at different planting dates, expect flowering and maturity to be

Table 1. Soybean yield loss compared to the expected yield for soybeans planted May 10th.

Planting Date	Yield Loss (%)
5/10	0
5/20	3
5/30	9
6/10	18
6/20	30

Source: University of Minnesota data.¹

delayed by about one day for each 3 to 5 day delay in planting.^{1,2} Unless the planting or replanting date is very late, it is usually not necessary to change to an earlier maturing soybean product. However, when planting is delayed past June 10, shorten the maturity group to 0.5 earlier than full-season.¹ Yield decreases can take place when late-planted, full-season soybean products are frost damaged before maturity.

Weed Control and Row Spacing

Weed management is a priority for late-planted soybeans due to the potential for reduced canopy coverage. Starting the season clean with a good burndown, using a preemergence herbicide, and a timely post emergence program is critical for managing the rapidly growing weeds. Weeds will compete with the crop, delaying it even further and impact yield potential. Always follow pesticide label directions when making applications. Utilizing narrow row spacing is another good agronomic management tool that can hasten canopy closure, increase sunlight interception and biomass accumulation. Ideally the canopy should be closed by July 1.³

Planting Rates

Planting rates should increase to compensate for plants that may not reach optimum yield potential and to help establish a good canopy.

Considerations for Late Planting of Soybeans

- Consider switching to an earlier maturing soybean product after June 10.
- If choosing to switch to a shorter maturing soybean product, shorten the maturity group by 0.5 to help maximize height and yield potential.
- Increase planting rate and use narrow rows where feasible.
- Implement a timely weed management program because of the potential for reduced canopy and competitiveness.
- When switching a field from corn to soybeans, follow the herbicide label instructions regarding plantback restrictions.

Increase rates to the high end of the recommended range, but not past it.³ Under ideal conditions, the University of Minnesota recommends a planting rate of 140,000 live seeds per acre. In central MN, increased seeding rates are needed to reach a harvest stand of 125,000 to 150,000 plants per acre in order to maximize yield potential.¹

Replanting to Soybeans

When a field originally intended for corn is being switched to soybeans, it is important to know plantback restrictions for the specific herbicides that have already been applied. Herbicide plantback restrictions found on the labels should be followed to prevent any carryover damage from further delaying the crop.

Insurance Options

Contact your local insurance agent for insurance coverage and options. The USDA Risk Management Agency has additional resources at <http://www.rma.usda.gov>.

Sources: ¹ Glogoza, P. 2009. Soybean planting date and delayed planting. University of Minnesota Extension. Online: <http://blog.lib.umn.edu> (verified 4/24/13); ² Pedersen, P. 2008. How late can soybeans be planted? Iowa State University, Integrated Crop Management News. June 2, 2008. <http://www.extension.iastate.edu> (verified 4/24/13); ³ Schafer, S. 2011. 5 tips for late soybean planting. Online: <http://www.agweb.com> (verified 4/24/13); Ross, J. 2009. Impact of late planted soybeans. Soybean podcasts. University of Arkansas. www.arkagriculture.org (verified 4/17/2013).

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