2009

Soybean Planting Dates and Populations

Mark A. Licht

Iowa State University, lichtma@iastate.edu

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Soybean Planting Dates and Populations

Abstract
Soybean genetics are changing yearly with improved yield and/or resistance capabilities. Additionally, small plot research from Iowa State University indicates a planting recommendation of April 20 or as soon as soil and weather conditions are suitable at populations of 125,000 to 140,000 seeds/acre. This trial was designed to demonstrate this recommendation on a local site with local conditions.

Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture

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Soybean Planting Dates and Populations

Mark Licht, field agronomist
ISU Extension

Introduction
Soybean genetics are changing yearly with improved yield and/or resistance capabilities. Additionally, small plot research from Iowa State University indicates a planting recommendation of April 20 or as soon as soil and weather conditions are suitable at populations of 125,000 to 140,000 seeds/acre. This trial was designed to demonstrate this recommendation on a local site with local conditions.

Materials and Methods
The first year at the Western Research and Demonstration Farm was in 2007. The previous crop was corn. The soil type is Monona silt loam with the majority having 2 to 5% slope.

The trial was replicated three times with four treatments (combination of two planting dates and two seeding rates) of the same soybean variety. Seeding rates chosen were from 125,000 and 140,000 on planting dates of April 30 and May 14. Each plot was 30 ft wide by plot length, which varied from 510 ft to 670 ft.

The trial had no fall or spring tillage and was no-till planted. A preplant burndown herbicide application was used with a second herbicide application in mid-June. No phosphorus or potassium was applied. No insecticide was applied.

Results and Discussion
Grain yields indicated a slight but non-significant yield decrease of 1.1 bushels/acre by dropping the population from 140,000 to 125,000 seeds/acre. The earlier planting date of April 30 yielded slightly more, but not statistically different, than the May 14 planting date.

These results indicate a recommended planting date as early as possible under suitable soil and environmental conditions. And, although grain yields don’t show tremendous advantage for planting a higher population, the economic savings of planting fewer seeds may be a more important factor.

Acknowledgements
Appreciation is extended to Wayne Roush and Don Hummel. Additional thanks goes to Brad Hanson for plot harvest.

Table 1. Grain moisture and yield results from two planting dates and two seeding rates at the Western Research and Demonstration Farm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planting date</th>
<th>Seeding rate</th>
<th>Grain moisture</th>
<th>Grain yield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>seeds/acre</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>bushels/acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 30</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>47.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 30</td>
<td>140,000</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>48.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>47.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>140,000</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>48.3</td>
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<td>LSD&lt;sub&gt;0.05&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>ns</td>
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