

June 24, 2015

## LATE PLANTED SOYBEANS

Wet planting conditions have delayed the soybean planting in Southeast Nebraska. The most active planting dates for soybeans are between May 1 and June 15. Where soybean planting has been delayed, producers should consider a few key management practices. Planting soybeans in the right soil conditions is essential for establishing an adequate soybean canopy and improving chances to increased yield potential. In my opinion it is better to wait for soil conditions dry enough to plant rather than aerial seeding of mudding them in while risking damage to equipment and causing soil compaction which could affect yields for the next 3-4 years.

A Kansas State University planting date x maturity group study in 2014, late planting did not clearly result in a yield reduction at the dryland sites, and caused only a minimal yield reduction at the irrigated site. Medium maturity groups yielded better, depending on the site. Details on this study can be found at: <http://newprairiepress.org/kaesrr/vol1/iss2/21/> [Ciampitti, I. A.; Shoup, D. E.; Sassenrath, G.; Kimball, J.; and Adee, E. A. (2015) "Soybean Planting Date x Maturity Group: Eastern Kansas Summary," Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports: Vol. 1: Iss. 2.]. Unless the seed you ordered for the 2015 planting season was above 3.8 maturity, I would plant the seed. Planting dates up to July 5 are still in the crop insurance window and have a better than average chance of maturing before a killing frost. No one can say for sure, but soybeans are day-length sensitive and the odds are we would harvest a bean crop.

Increasing the seeding rate of late-planted soybeans by 10-20% as compared to optimal seeding rate can help compensate for the shortened growing conditions. Research information on seeding rate and late planting of soybeans is currently being investigated further. It's all about the nodes. The same soybean cultivar planted early in the planting window, under normal conditions, will develop nearly 50% more productive nodes than when planted in late June: 19-25 nodes when planted early vs. 13-16 nodes when planted late.

Information on late-planted soybean across multiple row spacing's suggests that narrow-rows (e.g. 7" or 15" vs. 30") can hasten canopy closure, increasing season-long light interception, weed suppression, and potentially improving biomass and final yield. In some cases, the likelihood of finding yield responses to narrowing rows increases as the planting is delayed later in the season. This is consistent with research showing narrow rows boost yields in a high percentage of years. Wider rows seem to have an advantage in the driest years.

I modified an article in the Kansas State e-news report prepared by Ignacio Ciampitti, Crop Production and Cropping Systems Specialist [ciampitti@ksu.edu](mailto:ciampitti@ksu.edu) Twitter: @KSUCROPS and others.

I think by the end of next week we will have the planting in Gage County and Southeast Nebraska finally finished and will be moving on to summer crop care. Be sure you are checking stored grain bins on a regular basis. The losses of last year's crop in the bin could add to your woes. A friend brought in an electrical extension stick. He told me use this to show farmers how to break crusted grain domes without risking their life in the bin. If you have crusted grain in the bin it's time to move it to the elevator.

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