



May 29, 2015

## JUNE PLANTED CROPS

This is the time of year crop producers change maturity days on corn and usually start to wonder if they should make any soybean management changes as they move into June planting such as changing relative maturity, row spacing, and seeding rates. As the weather systems continue to move in and bring further chances for rain, there are some things growers can consider for June planted soybeans.

Stick with your normal maturity group or relative maturity (RM) ratings as planned for now. A 2003-2004 study in Lincoln looked at the average response of 14 varieties ranging from a 3.0 to 3.9 relative maturity. The study found that due to soybeans being photoperiod sensitive, flowering and maturity was similar among plantings dates. For example, an end-of-May planted soybean only matured 1 to 3 days sooner than mid-June planted soybean crop.

A 2013 soybean variety trial conducted in southeast South Dakota on 55 varieties showed that by reducing the relative maturity by 1 unit from a 2.8 to 1.8 RM, we only reduced the days to maturity by 5. If planting is delayed past June 15, you may want to consider reducing your relative maturity by 0.5 at that point on normal full season beans.

Regional studies show that narrow row soybeans yield 3-4 bushels/acre better over the long haul. If your operation does not own a narrow row planter or drill, there certainly is a strong consideration for looking into custom planting some acres for you if you are behind the eight ball. The rule of thumb according to Jim Specht at UNL is we lose about 5/8 of a bushel per acre per day with planting delays of soybeans and having an extra planter with narrow rows could help you finish a week early given the recent rainfall patterns. This equates to picking up an extra 7-8 bushels per acre in added yield between narrow row spacing and an earlier planting date, well worth a custom planting rate of \$20/acre.

As for soybean seeding rates, the goal is to achieve a final stand of 100,000 plants per acre planting during the normal time window. In the case with some drills, seed spacing can be a problem and you may want to increase your seeding rate on drilled soybeans to hasten canopy cover, or its tough planting conditions.

So don't switch varieties for earlier maturing varieties just yet, narrow rows are better, consider some help if behind, and increasing seeding rates may not be needed.

### **ELEVEN DAY 4-H CITIZENSHIP TRIP**

From June 5<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> I will be working with 32 4-H'ers from Gage, Jefferson and Saline County, along with Paul Hay and five other adult chaperones. Seventeen 4-H'ers are attending from Saline County and many have raised most or all the money through 4-H fundraisers at the Saline County Fair Junior Leader Foodstand, Czech Days, selling Fairbook ads and Red Wheel food sales. This is a special citizenship and history trip to Washington, D.C. and surrounding area, including Gettysburg, Mount Vernon, Monticello, Williamsburg, Norfolk Naval Base and the prize at the end of the trip, Virginia Beach.



My office manager, Lou Hajek, will be directing phone calls during this time frame. Nicole Stoner, UNL extension educator in Gage County, has responsibility for area education in horticulture which includes Saline County which is helpful. I will be checking messages via email and cell phone but bear in mind the circumstances and responsibility to the youth involved during this time frame.

Randy Pryor, Extension Educator

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Saline County • 306 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Wilber, NE  
68465

Phone (402) 821-2151 • Fax (402) 821-3398 • e-mail: [randy.pryor@unl.edu](mailto:randy.pryor@unl.edu)