ND, Northern MN - Late Soybean Planting Recommendations

- As planting time approaches and wet soils remain across much of North Dakota and Northern 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 and Day Length Sensitivity

Soybeans flower and mature in response to photoperiod, or day length. Shorter days after June 21 trigger flowering in soybean products. The time from flowering to harvest maturity is controlled by the maturity group for a specific product. Because soybeans are day length sensitive, flowering to harvest maturity will only differ slightly from planting dates between May 10 and June 10. For each three to five day delay in planting, flowering and maturity are delayed only about one day. For example, if you plant the same product on May 10th and again on June 10th, the blooming and maturity of the later planting is delayed about only 6 to 10 days. Full season soybean products generally have greater genetic yield potential than short season products. Unless the planting or replanting date is very late, it is usually not necessary to change to an earlier maturing soybean product.

Soybeans can lose yield potential when late-planted, full-season products do not reach adequate pod-setting height or frost damages the crop before maturity. North Dakota State University reports a 0.6% yield loss per day when soybean planting takes place in late May. Switching soybean maturities at the appropriate time may help avoid these problems and help maintain yield potential with later plantings. However, adapted, full season soybean products tend to have the best yield potential and timely rain events in August may be the most influential factor determining yield potential, regardless of planting date.

Switching product maturities in North Dakota and Northern Minnesota shouldn’t be considered until early June. It’s best to check with your agronomist or seed dealer to make a decision based on local conditions, soybean product performance, and seed availability. In general, if planting is delayed into mid-June, switch to a product 0.5 units shorter than the original maturity rating or 1.0 units shorter if planting is delayed until late June.

Weed Control and Row Spacing

Weed management is a priority for late-planted soybeans due to the potential for reduced canopy coverage to compete with weeds. Starting the season clean with a good burndown, using a preemergence herbicide, and a timely postemergence program is critical for managing rapidly growing, competitive weeds. Always follow pesticide label directions when making applications.

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.

Planting Rates

Planting rates should increase 10 to 15% to compensate for plants that may not reach optimum yield potential and to help establish a good canopy.

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


Sources:

Individual results may vary, and performance may vary from location to location and from year to year. This result may not be an indicator of results you may obtain as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible. ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS. Asgrow and the A Design® are registered trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC. Leaf Design® is a registered trademark of Monsanto Company. ©2014 Monsanto Company. 05212014JSC.