Wisconsin Late Soybean Planting Recommendations

- As planting time approaches and wet soils remain across much of Wisconsin, 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 product planted earlier. Yield potential decreases as planting dates become later (Table 1). The University of Wisconsin recommends planting full-season soybean products through the first week of June. 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 delayed by about one day for each 3 to 5 day delay in planting. 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 the first week of June, shorten the maturity group by no more than 0.5 earlier than full-season. Yield decreases can take place when late-planted, full-season soybean products are damaged by frost 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planting Date</th>
<th>Yield (%)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/20</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/01</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/10</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/20</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/01</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WI/MN soybean planting date study

Table 1. Expected relative soybean yield compared to the expected yield for soybeans planted before May 10th.

Planting Rates

Planting rates should increase to compensate for plants that may not reach optimum yield potential and to help establish a good canopy. Increase rates to the high end of the recommended range, but not past it.

Considerations for Late Planting of Soybeans

- Consider switching to an earlier maturing soybean product after the first week of June.
- If choosing to switch to a shorter maturing soybean product, shorten the maturity group by no more than 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.

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/news/currentissues/prevented/index.html.

Sources:
- Schafer, S. 2011. 5 tips for late soybean planting. Online: http://www.agweb.com (verified 5/1/14);

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® and DEKALB® are registered trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC. Leaf Design® is a registered trademark of Monsanto Company. ©2014 Monsanto Company. 04242013MEA.