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Soybean Seeding Rates

As corn planting winds down, soybean planting plans will soon become our focus. With seed input decisions for 2016 made – and no reason to change them! – It's still a good idea to evaluate seeding rates to insure you have enough seed out there to attain the yields you want!

In short, hot/dry environments require fewer plants to maximize yields while favorable environments require higher seeding rates – to a point! Where do we sit?

A summary of 21 KSU on-farm strip trials and five replicated experiment station studies helps sort this out a little. We'll focus on the two highest yield ranges. In the 40-50 bushel yield range, optimum seeding rate (assumes 80% establishment) was 140,000 seeds per acre. If the yield range is 50 bushels and above, the optimum was actually much the same, illustrating the tremendous ability of soybean plants to adjust pods (and seeds) per plant to available resources.

A series of multi-year studies funded by the United Soybean Board also examined high-input soybean production practices with initial results showing that maximum yields were obtained between 100,000 and 165,000 seeds per acre across a nine states study area, with studies from Kansas trending towards the mid and upper end of those ranges. The response was consistent across production systems regardless of whether they included a large number of yield-enhancing treatments (seed treatments, fungicides, growth promoters, etc.) or not.

For more information, see Kansas Soybean Management 2016, MF-3154, available online at: <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/pubs/MF3154.pdf>. The United Soybean Board study can be found at: <http://usb-extremebeans.com/agronomics/the-seeding-rate-debate/>.

Help for New Vegetable Gardeners

If you haven't started planning your garden yet – it's time! New to gardening? Never fear! Resources abound!

Start with our K-State Research and Extension Vegetable Garden Planting Guide. It gives information on the size of planting needed per person and the average crop expected per 100 feet. It includes a garden calendar of suggested planting and expected harvest dates plus information on specific crops as well (planting depth, spacing within the row, etc....).

A second resource (and it's a good one!) is the Kansas Garden Guide. This 77-page booklet has sections on everything gardening, first in general and then with specific information for various crops. It's kind of a 'summary' of the numerous publications available through our District Extension Office.

Both publications are available online The Kansas Garden Guide can be obtained at: <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/Item.aspx?catId=534&pubId=8219> and the Vegetable Garden Planting Guide at <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/pubs/mf315.pdf>. While the Vegetable Garden Planting Guide is free from our District Offices, the Kansas Garden Guide is available by order through the office for \$9 each. Stop by and request your copy today!