Early Planting Dates for No-Till Soybeans

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Objective

To determine the effect of early planting on yields of no-till soybeans.

Background

Cooperator:	Tom Weiler	Soil Test:	pH 6.3, P 36 ppm, K 159 ppm
Nearest Town:	Chesterville	Fertilizer:	None
Soil Type:	Chili	Herbicides:	PRE: Canopy (3 oz/A)
Drainage:	Naturally well-drained		POST: Roundup (1 qt/A)
Tillage:	No-till	Harvest Date:	October 4, 1999
Previous Crop:	Corn		

Methods

Three planting dates were compared to a normal planting date to determine the effect of early planting. A soybean variety with a relative maturity of 3.9 was planted with a 750 JD No-Till Drill. There were four replications in a completely randomized block design. Individual plot size was 30 feet wide with lengths that ranged between 574 and 752 feet. A 20-foot-wide section was harvested out of the center of each plot with yields determined by weigh wagon. The actual acreage of each plot was between 0.264 and 0.345 acres.

Results

Table 1. Planting Date and Yield Results.

Planting Date	Yield (bu/ac)
March 29	42.6 a
April 14	41.6 a
April 27	41.6 a
May 7	37.6 b

Treatment means followed by the same letter are not significantly different at P = 0.05.
Yield LSD = 2.0 bu/ac, cv = 2.26% .

Summary and Notes

Rainfall in April was 167 percent of normal. April was slightly warmer, averaging 116% of normal from April 1 through April 25. Rainfall the first three weeks in May was 0.5 inch or 77% of normal. The May planting took several weeks to completely come up.

The yields of the three early-planted soybeans were significantly higher than the May planting yields. All plantings had good stands of soybeans. The beans were all clean and medium height at harvest.

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