

Effect of Early Planting on No-Till Soybean Yield

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Objective

Planting soybeans early helps to spread out the spring workload for producers. The objective of this study was to determine the effect of early planting on yields of no-till soybeans.

Background

Cooperator:	Tom Weiler	Fertilizer:	None
County:	Morrow	Herbicides:	PRE: Canopy (3 oz/A), POST: Roundup Ultra (1 qt/A)+AMS
Nearest town:	Chesterville	Variety:	Callahan 8367RR
Soil Type:	Chili loam	Planting Date:	See Methods
Previous Crop:	Corn	Planting Rate:	217,500 seeds/A
Drainage:	Random tile, well drained	Row Width:	30 inches
Tillage:	No-till	Harvest Date:	October 12, 2000
Soil Test:	pH 6.7, P 30 ppm, K 123 ppm		

Methods

Four planting dates were planned, but rains in late March prevented a late March planting date. Three dates (April 6, April 26, and May 8) were used. The plot was replicated four times in a complete randomized block design. Each treatment plot was 30-foot wide and approximately 2,000 feet long. The center 20 feet of each plot were harvested and weighed with a weigh wagon.

Results

Table 1. Planting Dates.

Planting Date	Yield (bu/A)
April 6	41.0 ab
April 26	42.5 a
May 8	39.1 b
LSD (0.05)	2.3
CV	4.10%

Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different.

Summary and Notes

Yields from the April 26 planting were significantly better than those from the May 8 date. However, the two April dates did not produce significant differences in yield.

This is the third year the late March/April planting dates have provided favorable results. We have selected well-drained fields and used a soybean with a good, protective seed treatment each year. The results appear to support the idea that soybeans can be planted in late March and in April before corn planters are taken to the field. This expands the days available for spring planting activities.

Acknowledgment

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For additional information, contact:

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