Soybean Seeding Rates in 15-Inch Rows

Jim Lopshire, Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent

Objective

To evaluate the effect of seeding rate on yield for conventional soybeans planted in 15-inch rows.

Background

Cooperator: Jay Schmidt
County: Paulding
Nearest Town: Payne
Soil Type: Hoytville
Drainage: Systematic
Tillage: No-Till
Previous Crop: Corn
Fertilizer: None Applied
Variety: LG 3201
Herbicide: PRE: 4/26/02 2,4-D - 12 oz/acre
PRE: 4/26/02 Detail - 2 pints/acre
Sencor (6 oz/acre)
POST: None
Planter: Kinze 2600
Row Spacing: 15-inch
Planting Rate: See Treatments
Planting Date: June 4, 2002
Harvest Date: October 5, 2002

Methods

Three population rates were used to determine the effect of seeding rate on yield. The planting rates selected were 161,350, 182,400, and 219,540 seeds per acre using a Kinze 2600 no-till planter. Treatment rates were based on settings listed in the planter manual. Treatments were replicated four times in a non-randomized complete block. The harvest plots were one acre in size measuring 60 feet wide by 726 feet long. Each strip was weighed using calibrated portable scales, and the yield was adjusted to 13% grain moisture level.

Harvest population was determined by counting the soybean plants in 1/1,000 acre on two corresponding adjacent rows for each individual treatment.
Results

Table 1. Plant Population, Moisture, and Yield for Seeding Rate Treatments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planted Population (seeds/A)</th>
<th>Harvest Population (plants/A)</th>
<th>Harvest Moisture (%)</th>
<th>Yield (bu/A)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>161,350</td>
<td>111,250a</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>182,400</td>
<td>119,750a</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>50.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>219,450</td>
<td>150,500b</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>51.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD (0.05)</td>
<td>18,671</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F - test</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Means followed by the same letter in the same column are not significantly different. NS = Not Significant

Summary

The harvest population was less than 70% of the planting population for the three treatments. Populations were not significantly different between two of the three treatment means. There was no significant difference in soybean averages for yield or moisture.

Data from this first-year study suggests that the soybean populations did not produce a significant yield increase among the three populations. Seed cost per acre ranged from $16.74 per acre for the lowest plant setting of 161,350 plants per acre to $22.77 for the highest population setting of 219,450 plants per acre. This is a savings $6.03 per acre.

Acknowledgment

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For further information, contact: Jim Lopshire
The Ohio State University
jlopshire@ag.osu.edu