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University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Hickman County Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter

MARCH/APRIL 2023

Kentucky Soybean Planting Recommendations

After experiencing the warmest winter on record for most of the state, producers are gearing up for planting season. With above average soil temperatures some may even be tempted to plant earlier than usual. Regardless, it is always good to refresh with the fundamentals of soybean planting in Kentucky.

Planting Date and Soil Temperature

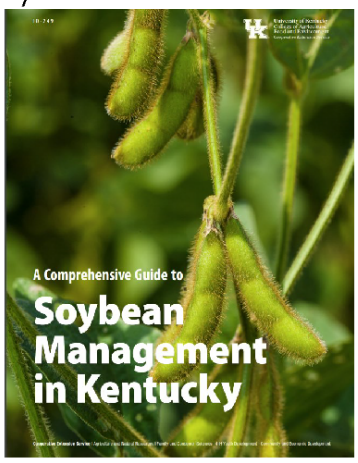
To achieve maximum yield of a full-season soybean crop the recommended planting date for Western Kentucky is mid-April through early May and by mid-May in Central Kentucky, but soil temperatures need to be warm enough before starting. Soil temperatures 2 inches below the ground need to reach and **sustain** at least 50°F, and there also needs to be no risk for a killing freeze. Cool, wet soil conditions can result in delayed emergence as well as slower germination. Seed vigor is important to know when planting into cool, wet conditions. Vigor ratings are not on most seed labels but can easily be obtained by asking the seed dealer or submitting a sample to **UK regulatory services.**

Seed Treatment and Pest Management

If soybeans are planted into cooler soil conditions, precautions such as fungicide and insecticide seed treatments should also be considered. Fields with a history of Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) can still be planted early, however, specific seed treatment products that have efficacy against SDS and highly resistant varieties should be considered. Insect pressure can also cause stand loses. Bean leaf beetle damage can be easily identified by pitting of the cotyledons after emergence. An insecticide seed treatment should also be considered, especially if an early planting date is attempted.

Planting Depth, Seeding Rate and Inoculant

The recommended harvest population of soybean plants is 100,000 plants/acre. With all factors being considered such as germination rate, stand losses from insects, seedling diseases, and cool soil conditions, seeding rate should reflect the expected losses to these factors. Soybeans should be planted between 1 and 2 inches deep in the soil. If seeding depth is deeper, the risk increases for the seed not emerging from ground. Fields that have been overly wet through the winter or have not had a recent history of soybean planting, 3 to 5 years, should be inoculated when planting.



Additional information is available in UK extension publication ID: 249: Soybean Management in Kentucky and AGR-130.

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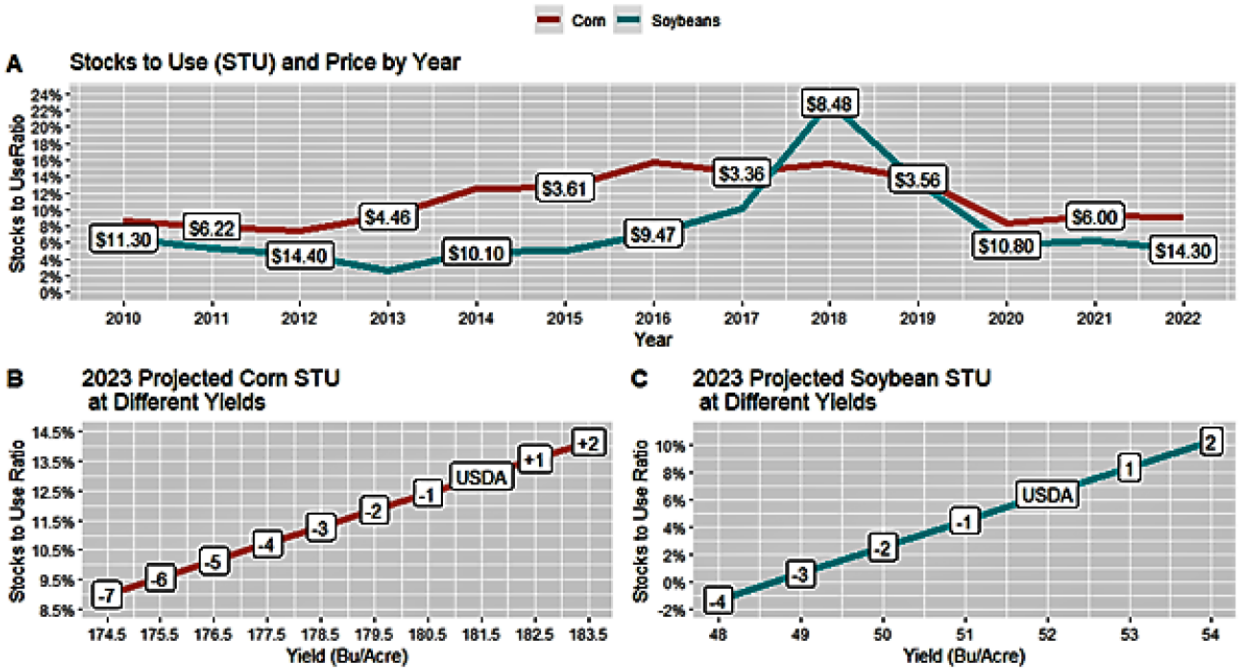
2023 Corn and Soybean Projections

The current USDA projection for 2023 average corn yield is 181.5 bushels/acre, which results in a projected STU ratio of 13% and a price forecast of $5.60/bushel. Over-estimation of yields by the USDA could indicate STU and prices closer to 2021 or 2022, depending on how many bushels the actual average yield is under the projection. If actual yield exceeds USDA projections, the STU ratio would increase, likely causing prices to fall under $5.60/bushel.

Analysis of soybean yield tells a more exciting story. The USDA is projecting an average soybean yield of 52 bushels/acre, STU of 6.44%, and an average price of $12.90/bushel for 2023. Suppose the average soybean yield is just one bushel short, and harvested soybean acres projections are accurate. In this case, the STU ratio falls to 4.5%, which has not occurred since 2012, when the drought caused supply shortages and soybean prices of $14.40/bushel. Further thinning of soybean yield could push soybean prices closer to 2012 levels.

In conclusion, USDA Ag Outlook Forum projections indicate that the soybean STU ratio is more sensitive to over-projection of yield than corn. These results may show a possible upside to soybean prices if planted and harvested acres are correct, but the average yield is over-projected, or vice versa. USDA planted acre projections will become more accurate as spring planting progresses, giving additional insight into how yield misses could affect STU for corn and soybeans.



Sources:

U.S. Department of Agriculture –Office of the Chief Economist (USDA-OCE). WASDE report. Available on-line at: https://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity/wasde

U.S. Department of Agriculture –Office of the Chief Economist (USDA-OCE). WASDE report. Available on-line at: https://www.usda.gov/oce/ag-outlook-forum/commodity-outlooks

U.S. Department of Agriculture – National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS). Quick Stats. Available on-line at: https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/

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2023 Corn and Soybean Fungicide Efficacy Guides Now Available

The 2023 fungicide efficacy tables for foliar diseases of corn and soybean, and for soybean seedling diseases have been updated, and are now available through the Crop Protection Network website: https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/

These tables are updated annually based on data provided by United States Extension plant pathologists, with efficacy determined through replicated research trials across a broad geographic area. Kentucky research trial data are included in the development of these national fungicide efficacy ratings.

The ratings in these guides reflect the efficacy of a fungicide against a given disease, and are not rating yield response to a fungicide. It is an applicators legal responsibility to read and follow label directions. Updated tables include:

Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Corn Diseases
Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Seedling Diseases
Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Foliar Diseases

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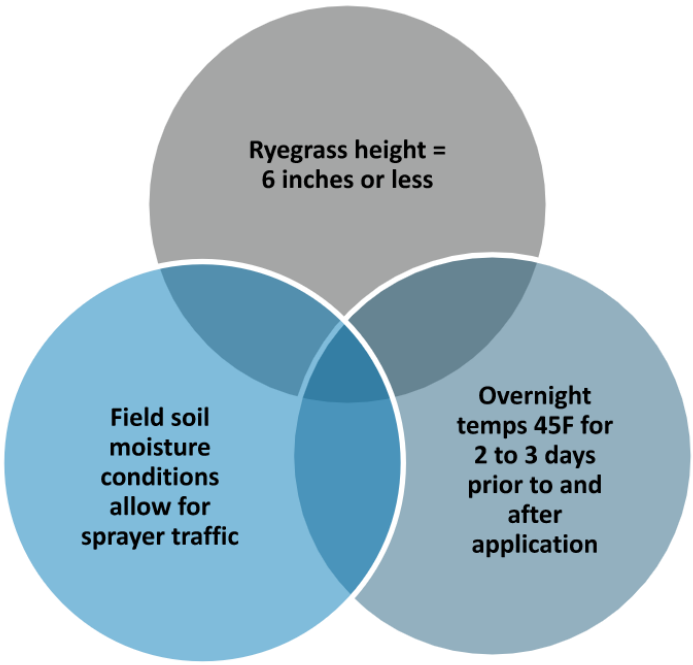

Figure 1. The optimal window for Italian (annual) ryegrass burndown occurs when all three of these parameters occur at the same time

Read the entire article titled "Start the Growing Season on a Positive with a Successful Burn-down" online at kygrains.info

Bait Registered under Section 24(c) to Manage Slugs & Snails on Soybeans in KY

Duringthe last couple of years, slugs and snails have become serious pests of soybeans in many areas of the North Central U.S., including Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia. These mollusks feed on germinating seeds until the V_0 to V_4 growth stages of soybean plants.

Typically, cotyledons (Figure 1) and unifoliate leaves are damaged; however, when the apical meristem is destroyed, the plant growth is totally thwarted causing plant death (Figure 2). Outbreaks of mollusks can reduce plant densities, and there is no rescue treatment when this occurs. Replanting is the only option for commercial soybean farmers when damage to plant stands is severe. However, if farmers scout in the spring, they can use metaldehyde baits as a preventative control management practice.

Figure 1. Snail feeding on a soybean cotyledon (Photo: Raul Villanueva, UK)

Metaldehyde Baits & Scouting

Recently, Deadline® M-Ps™ (metaldehyde) was registered in Kentucky to be used in soybeans under FIFRA 24(c) special local needs (SLN). Although there is no threshold for slugs, scouting should be conducted before spreading the metaldehyde baits. Scouting for mollusks may be conducted after rains and on foggy days with cool temperatures in order find slugs or snails early in the morning, or scout just before or after sunset. The applications of baits should follow the manufacturer's directions.

The EPA SLN label for Deadline® M-Ps™ is located here.

Figure 2. *Six soybean plants with the apical meristem completely consumed by slugs (red arrows); the only plant that will produce beans is on the left side of the picture (Photo: Raul Villanueva, UK).*

By Raul T. Villanueva, Entomology Extension Specialist

2023 WHEAT FIELD DAY

TOPICS INCLUDE:

Drone Regulations, Applications, and Economics
Dr. Josh Jackson & Dr. Tim Stombaugh
UK Extension Agriculture Engineers

Wheat Market Outlook
Dr. Grant Gardner
New UK Extension Marketing Specialist

UKY Oat and Rye Breeding
Dr. Lauren Brzozowski
New UK Small Grains Breeder

Wheat vs Weather: A Reoccurring Battle
Kinsey Hamby
UK PSS Graduate Student

Management of Fusarium Head Blight
Dr. Carl Bradley
UK Extension Pathologist

Wheat Agronomics
Conner Raymond
UK Grain Crops Extension Associate

Variety Trial Walk Through
Dr. Dave Van Sanford & Bill Bruening
UK Wheat Breeder & Researcher Specialist

Sustainable Management of Wheat for the Presence of Natural Enemies in Grain & Soybeans
Dr. Raul Villanueva
UK Extension Entomologist

May 9, 2023

UKREC Farm

1205 Hopkinsville Rd,
Princeton KY 42445

9am – noon (Central time)
Registration: 8 am

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service
Wheat Science

Lunch sponsored by:

KENTUCKY Small Grain GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Strawberry Salsa

1 tablespoon olive oil

2 tablespoons white vinegar or white balsamic vinegar

½ teaspoon salt

2 cups, coarsely chopped fresh strawberries

8 green onions, chopped

2 cups chopped cherry or grape tomatoes

½ cup chopped fresh cilantro

1. Whisk olive oil, vinegar, and salt in large bowl.

2. Add strawberries, green onions, tomatoes, and cilantro. Toss to coat.

3. Cover and chill for 1 hour.

4. Serve with tortilla or pita chips.

Yield: 7, ½ cup servings.

Nutrition Analysis:
40 calories; 2 g fat; 0 g saturated fat; 0 mg cholesterol; 170 mg sodium; 6 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 4 g sugar; 1 g protein; 60% of vitamin C.

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

Kentucky Proud

Kentucky Strawberries

SEASON: May through June

NUTRITION FACTS: Strawberries are low in calories and high in nutrients. One cup strawberries contain 55 calories. Strawberries are a great source of vitamin C. They also contain vitamin A, iron, fiber, and folic acid. Folic Acid is especially important for childbearing women. When consumed in adequate amounts, it has been proven to prevent certain birth defects.

SELECTION: Choose fully ripened, bright red berries. Strawberries do not ripen after they have been picked. Berries should be plump and have a natural shine with bright green, fresh looking caps. Use strawberries as soon after picking as possible for the best flavor and highest nutritional value.

STORAGE: Store strawberries in the refrigerator, covered, unwashed, with the caps on. Do not crowd. If you have the space, gently spread the berries on a cookie sheet and cover with plastic wrap. Use berries within 2 to 3 days.

HANDLING: Handle strawberries gently. Never remove the caps before washing. The cap prevents water from soaking into the berry, which lessens the flavor and changes the texture. To wash, cover berries in cold water and lift gently out of the water to drain. Dry by placing berries in a single layer on paper towels.

After washing, remove the caps if necessary. Give the

cap

a gentle twist or use the point of a sharp paring knife or pointed spoon.

Pat berries dry with paper towels before serving whole or sliced, fresh or cooked.

STRAWBERRIES
Kentucky Proud Project
County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences
University of Kentucky, Nutrition and Food Science students
March 2011

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

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Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED