

## TEN STEPS TO GROWING HIGH YIELD, HIGH QUALITY SOYBEANS IN GEORGIA

1. Rotate land so that soybeans and other legumes are planted (on the same site) no more often than once every two years. If field has nematodes, plant an appropriate nematode resistant soybean variety. Avoid deep sands or eroded clay soils.
2. Soil test! Lime and fertilize for soybeans according to test results. **Apply an inoculant specific for soybeans** if soybeans have not been grown on this land in the last three years. Make sure soybean inoculant is fresh. Check expiration date.
3. For Coastal Plain soils, use deep tillage (12"-14") to get deep soybean rooting. For conservation tillage, use strip tillage and/or traffic control to reduce soil compaction.
4. Use good cultural practices.
  - a. Plant between **May 10 and June 10**
  - b. Plant tall growing and/or late maturing varieties if planting after June 10.
  - c. Plant in rows 10" to 36" wide.
  - d. **Plant about 145,000 seed per acre (~10 seed per foot for 36" row spacing)**
  - e. Plant seed 1.0" to 1.25" deep in moist soil
  - f. Plant when soil temperature 2" deep is between 70° and 90° F.
  - g. If irrigating, apply water
    - i. During vegetative growth, if leaf wilt occurs by mid-day.
    - ii. During reproductive growth (R2-R5) to supplement rainfall so that soybeans receive 2.5"- 3.0" of water weekly
5. Plant **recommended varieties for your location and planting situation**. (see recommended variety list in GA 2009 Soybean Production Guide). Plant varieties of different maturities to spread drought risks.
6. Control weeds!
  - a. In reduced tillage production systems, do everything possible to obtain a weed-free seedbed at planting.
  - b. Consider using a soil-applied herbicide.
  - c. Apply postemergence herbicides when weeds are 2"- 4" tall.
  - d. Be on the lookout for glyphosate and ALS-resistant Palmer amaranth (pigweed)
  - e. See the 2009 GA Soybean Production Guide for more weed control information.
7. Control insects
  - a. Scout fields weekly to monitor insect populations
  - b. If in the Georgia Coastal Plain, apply preventative velvetbean caterpillar control treatment (Dimilin + boron) **at or after full flower (R2)**.
  - c. Treat for stinkbugs, and other pod/foilage feeding insects as needed. (See 2009 GA Soybean Production Guide for details)
8. Control Asian soybean rust and other foliage diseases!

- a. Scout fields bi-weekly prior to first-bloom and weekly at first-bloom and beyond to monitor for leaf diseases (Asian soybean rust, frogeye leaf spot, etc.).
  - b. Pre-bloom, apply foliar fungicide if Asian soybean rust is detected in your fields or very close by. (View UGA soybean website for current rust status. Stay alert for local news.)
  - c. Post-bloom (R1-R6), apply foliar fungicide if Asian soybean rust is detected in your region or local area (e.g. in UGA/USDA sentinel plots). Specific choice of a fungicide will be determined in part by confirmed proximity of disease to a specific field. (See 2009 GA Soybean Production Guide for fungicide rec.)
9. Harvest soon after maturity to reduce seed shatter and maintain good seed quality.
- a. Adjust combine to match crop and field situation.
  - b. Begin harvest soon after soybean seed have dried to 13% moisture less.
10. Use Year Around Marketing Strategy!
- a. Know Your Soybean Production Costs.
  - b. Know that Best Soybean Market Prices Usually Don't Occur at Harvest Time.
  - c. Forward Contract (Up to half of Your Expected Yield to Take Advantage of Favorable Market Prices)
  - d. Use Put or Call Options, if Needed, to Secure Favorable Prices.