



SOYBEAN

April, 2007

MARCH 30, 2007 PLANTING INTENTIONS REPORT – The 2007 USDA planting intentions report released March 30, forecast 2007 US soybean plantings to be down to about 67 million acres and corn plantings to increase to about 90 million acres, see table below. If realized, this would be about an 11 percent decrease in soybean plantings, and the lowest US soybean acreage since 1997. In contrast, the report indicated that Georgia soybean plantings would be up about 60 percent and at 250,000 acres for 2007. A large 2006-2007 Georgia wheat crop is the primary basis for expected increased 2007 Georgia soybean plantings.

USDA SPRING PLANTING INTENTIONS REPORT
(Acres X 1000)

	2006	2007	%Change
Corn—USA	78.3	90.5	+15
Corn—Georgia	0.28	0.50	+79
Soybeans—USA	75.5	67.1	-11
Soybeans— Georgia	0.15	0.25	+60
Peanuts—USA	1.24	1.20	-4
Peanuts—Georgia	0.58	0.50	-14
Cotton—USA	15.2	13.2	-14
Cotton—Georgia	1.4	1.07	-23

The need for expanded corn plantings for ethanol has fueled a \$4.00/BU corn market. This, in turn has created a vacuum which has pulled up soybean market prices to levels higher than fundamental support levels. UGA Extension Economist, Nathan Smith expects to see the soybean market price retreat to below \$7.00/BU as the season progresses unless adverse weather problems develop. He lifts up a record large 2006 US soybean crop, high carryover stocks, and a large good 2006-2007 South American soybean crop as reasons for 2007 soybean prices to decrease from current levels.

In light of this scenario, some forward marketing of the 2007 soybean crop seems prudent.

GEORGIA 2007 SOYBEAN PRODUCTION GUIDE –Posted on UGA Soybean Website-Several have inquired about the 2007 Georgia Soybean Production guide. It can be found on the UGA Soybean website.

The 2007 Georgia Soybean Production Guide has information on all aspects of Georgia soybean production, economics and marketing and was prepared by the UGA Extension Soybean Team.

TEN STEPS TO HIGH YIELD AND PROFITABLE SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

The UGA Extension Soybean Team has also prepared a one-page brochure entitled “Ten Steps to High Yield and Profitable Soybean Production.” This is intended as a handout to use at soybean production meetings or when visiting one-on-one with producers about production practices to follow when growing soybeans. There is a slide set that accompanies this brochure. We encourage you to use it for small meetings, etc.

HOW EARLY CAN I PLANT SOYBEANS?-We have had several questions/inquires about planting soybeans in April. Some farmers have noticed that Mississippi/Arkansas farmers are planting soybeans in April. The basic question is “If they are planting in April, why can’t we do the same?” Mississippi/Arkansas farmers do plant very early indeterminate soybean varieties. Our experience in planting them in April and comparing them with May plantings and with late maturing soybean varieties was that they yield better when planted in May and that they did not yield as well as late determinate type soybeans.

All of the soybean varieties recommended by UGA for planting in Georgia have determinate growth habits. Varieties with this type growth habit are extremely sensitive to the photoperiod-day/night lengths. If planted before May 1, determinate soybean varieties will have reduced plant height, and seed quality as compared to mid-May planting. More often than not, they will also have reduced yield.

The optimum planting period for Georgia determinate soybeans is from about May 10 to June 10. Starting planting a few days early to take advantage of favorable soil moisture and temperature is OK, but mid-April planting is usually not good for getting top yields and seed quality.

USE A GOOD SOYBEAN INOCULANT-Well nodulated soybeans can get enough nitrogen from N-fixation to produce 50-70 bushels/A. The soil bacteria *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* responsible for soybean root nodulation is not native to Georgia soils, nor does it reproduce on other legumes. As such, *Bradyrhizobium* soil levels decline with time when soybeans are not grown on a given soil/field.

Land that has not been planted to soybeans in the last three years will have greatly reduced levels of soybean N-fixing bacteria. Use of a good soybean inoculant will usually give yield increase in this setting. Soybean inoculant can be supplied as a seed treatment or in-furrow treatment.

Since soybean inoculant contains living organisms it is very age sensitive. Growers should use only fresh soybean inoculant specifically marked "for use on 2007 soybeans." After purchase, inoculant should be stored in a cool dry place until seed treatment and planting.

Update on Asian Soybean Rust

Dr. Bob Kemerait

The development and spread of Asian soybean rust remains an important topic for soybean producers and the soybean industry in the United States. Sentinel plots, early planted soybeans monitored for the early detection of the disease, are currently being established across the state, though the current cold snap at Easter has slowed our progress a bit. We are planting MG IV, MG VI, and late MG VII varieties across the production areas of the state. These sentinel plots will be monitored throughout the entire growing season for the appearance and spread of rust. Reports from the sentinel plot assessments will be available to soybean producers in the United States through their UGA Cooperative Extension office and through the USDA web site at <http://www.sbrusa.net/>.

DOMARK 230ME Fungicide has been granted a Section 3 label recently by the EPA. DOMARK (active ingredient tetraconazole) has been extremely effective in the management of Asian soybean rust in trials conducted at the University of Georgia and has also been effective in the management of frog eye leaf spot. DOMARK is applied at 4.0-5.0 fl oz/A and can be applied either once or twice during the season. More information on DOMARK and other fungicides for control of Asian soybean rust and late season disease will be discussed in future articles in this newsletter.

As many of you know, Both Dr. Phil Jost and Dr. Layla Sconyers have recently left the University of Georgia to pursue careers in the private industry. The UGA Soybean Team is grateful for their many contributions towards the early detection and management of soybean rust; their help will be sorely missed. However, be assured that soybean producers in the state can continue to expect and receive timely and the latest information on the management of rust and other diseases through the UGA Soybean Team and the UGA Cooperative Extension.