



The University of Georgia
Cooperative Extension Service
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences



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<http://www.griffin.uga.edu/caes/soybeans>

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HARVEST TIME (*Sumner*) Timely and careful harvesting means extra bushels of soybean in the bin. Soybeans are easy to thresh, but the challenge is to get all the soybean seed into the combine. Straight combining is the most satisfactory and commonly used method of harvest. Cross swathing soybeans can result in excessive field losses (up to 25%) due to shattering. Equipment such as floating headers, pickup reels, and row crop headers are helpful in reducing harvest losses. Keep the combine in good repair. A cutterbar in poor condition will increase gathering losses. Be sure knife sections and ledger plates are sharp, and that wear plates, hold-down clips and guards are properly adjusted. Proper reel speed in relation to ground speed will reduce gathering losses. Use a reel speed about 25 percent faster than ground speed. Operate the cutterbar as close to the ground as possible at all times. Keep forward speeds at or below 3 miles per hour. Slow down if stubble is high and ragged, or if separating losses are high.

Approximately four beans or one to two pods per square foot represent a yield loss of "one bushel" per acre.

Harvest soybeans when the plants are mature and the beans have approximately 14 percent moisture. Harvest may be started at 17 to 18 percent moisture if drying is available. Harvest as much of the crop as possible above 12 percent moisture to avoid cracking seed coats and "splits". When soybean seed is extremely dry, (8 to 10 percent moisture), harvesting will cause more shattering and seed injury. Under these conditions, combine during morning or evening hours when relative humidity is higher and adjust the combine accordingly. Adjust cylinder concave clearance according to the operator's manual. When soybean plants and pods are tough, cylinder speed may have to be increased. Decrease cylinder speed as soybean seeds dry during midday to reduce breakage. Glyphosate, paraquat, carfentrazone (Aim) or sodium chlorate can be applied

as a desiccant to aid harvesting if green weed growth delays harvest. Do not apply a desiccant until soybean moisture is under 30 percent and 65 percent of the seed pods have reached a mature brown color.

Soybeans may be stored safely for short periods during cool weather at moisture contents as high as 14 percent. For extended periods of storage, soybean moisture content should be 11-12 percent. An air screen cleaner to remove foreign material, weed seeds and fines should be used before applying air and heat to soybeans. The maximum drying temperature for soybeans is about 140 F. When soybeans are to be used for seed, the temperature should not exceed 105 F.

SOYBEAN RUST – AGAIN (*Jost, Kemerait and Sconyers*) We encourage you to log on to the USDA Soybean Rust web page (www.sbrusa.net) to get a feel for how far soybean rust spread across the southern U.S. in 2005. To date it has been found in 23 Georgia counties, the most counties in any southern state. The jury is still out on whether any commercial fields had infestations high enough to cause yield losses. Much has been learned about the control of this disease from various research plots. As harvest progresses we should get a good feel for what level of infestation will cause yield losses in these plots.

Finally, there is a southeast wrap up meeting soybean rust and what we found in late October. At that meeting, we would like to have as COMPLETE a picture as possible of rust in our state. We (Bob, Layla, and Phil) believe that rust is most likely spread in soybean everywhere across the Coastal Plain and even north, though probably not to the farthest northern corners of the state.

Our request... There are a number of counties in Georgia where soybean is grown (even in small amounts) where we have not confirmed rust. We would appreciate it if in the next several weeks as you pass soybean fields, if you can take a moment to check them for rust and send us a sample to include your county potentially as "Positive" in the sample. Samples would be sent like other disease samples to Tifton.

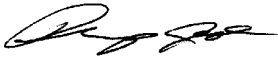
The best ways to find rust, even small amounts, will be in the lower canopy on leaves yellowed from the disease. Disease is also more common in areas of the field that stay wetter longer in the morning from dew, for example on the east side of a field against a tree line.

SOYBEAN YIELD AND PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY CONTEST (*Jost*) (Repeat from last month....) According to the latest yield estimates Georgia soybean yields are projected to average 33 bu/A. This would tie the record set in 2003. There is no doubt that there are some "loaded" fields out there. I, once again, request your help in documenting these growers' efforts. The efficiency portion of this contest takes on new importance as growers have made some "extra" inputs to battle rust. While at this point this disease has not blown up, the game is not over yet. It will be interesting to compare last year's winner with the efficiency winner this year in light of these additional sprays. Please encourage successful soybean growers in your county to participate in this year's Soybean Production Efficiency Contest. This year's winners will receive cash awards, plaques, and the agent and grower will be recognized at the 2006 Small Grain/Soybean Expo to be held February, 7 in Statesboro.

Completed entry forms must be postmarked by December 16, 2005 and mailed to:
Dr. Philip Jost
PO Box 8112 GSU
Statesboro, GA 30460

Entry forms have been emailed previously. If you need another copy let me know.

Edited by: **Philip H. Jost**, Extension Agronomist-Cotton & Soybeans



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