

NINE STEPS TO GROWING HIGH YIELD SOYBEANS IN GEORGIA

1. 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.
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 inches wide.
 - d. **Plant about 145,000 seed per acre (about 10 seed per foot for 36" row spacing)**.
 - e. Plant seed 1.0 to 1.25 inch 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 2.25-3.0 inches of water weekly.
5. Plant **recommended varieties for your location and planting situation** (see recommended variety list in GA 2012 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 such as Prowl or Valor.
 - c. Apply post-emergence herbicides when weeds are 2-4 inches tall.
 - d. Be on the lookout for glyphosate and ALS-resistant Palmer amaranth (pigweed)
 - e. See the 2012 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 plus boron) **at or after full flower (R₂)**.
 - c. Scout fields weekly, treat for stinkbugs, and other pod/foilage feeding insects as needed. (See 2012 GA Soybean Production Guide for details)
8. **Control Asian soybean rust and other foliage diseases!**
 - a. **Scout fields weekly to monitor for leaf diseases.**

- b. Pre-bloom, apply foliar fungicide if A. soybean rust is detected in your fields. (View UGA soybean website for current rust status. Stay alert for local news.)*
 - c. Post-bloom (R1-R6), apply foliar fungicide if A. rust is detected in your local area. (See 2012 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 or less.____

Prepared by UGA Extension Soybean Team