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EC192 Soybean Production in Nebraska

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Variety.--The variety Lincoln is superior to previously grown varieties in yield, oil content, and lodge resistance, and is adapted to east-central and southeast Nebraska. Hawkeye is equal to Lincoln, matures several days earlier, and is adapted to the region north of the Platte river. Seed of the new Adams variety is being released this spring, 1951, for use in the central irrigated, east-central, and southeastern parts of the state. It is 3 days earlier and more lodge-resistant than Lincoln.

Seedbed.--Plowing and other seedbed tillage should be done early to bring about germination of weed seeds which may be destroyed later by occasional disking or harrowing before the soybeans are planted. An even surface will provide for uniform depth of planting.

Time of planting.--Tests at Lincoln show highest yields of beans from planting during the first half of June. The earlier part of this period is more desirable if conditions have been favorable for destroying weeds.

Inoculation of the seed has increased yields, especially where the soil is not deficient in lime.

Manner of planting.--On land where weeds are well under control, higher yields have been obtained from solid drilling than from cultivated rows of corn

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planter width. Planting in rows spaced for cultivation provides opportunity to destroy weeds in the growing crop, but maximum yields are obtained only if equipment is at hand for planting and cultivating rows with about half the standard spacing of corn rows. Shallow furrow openers on a corn planter are beneficial in a dry surface, and facilitate destruction of small weeds in the rows by early cultivation.

Rate of planting.--One bushel of seed per acre in cultivated rows and approximately two bushels in close drills are the most profitable rates, which space the seed about one inch in 36-inch rows and 2½ inches in 7-inch drill rows.

Depth of planting.--In moist heavy soil one inch covering is sufficient. In light loam or sandy soil, or where the surface is dry and loose, two inches is preferable.

Cultivation.--Destroy weed seedlings just before planting. Cultivation before the soybean plants emerge may serve to kill weeds or to break a soil crust caused by heavy rains. Use of the harrow, rotary hoe, or spring-tooth weeder after the bean plants are large enough to resist breaking provides for rapid tillage of the field. This is best done at an angle across the rows and should be continued as needed until plants are eight to ten inches tall. Row cultivation should be discontinued when blossoming starts.

Harvesting with a combine may be done when the beans become hard and dry, although they will ordinarily stand for a few weeks longer without shattering. Careful adjustment of cylinder speed and distance from concave bars is necessary to prevent splitting.

Storage.--When soybeans are hard the moisture content is sufficiently low for safe storage. With a moisture content of 11 per cent or less, they may be stored for a year without deterioration.