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Double Crop Planting Dates

There are several factors to consider when double cropping after winter wheat. Some factors to consider for double crop after wheat are as follows:
Crop Selection

There are many options for crops planted after winter wheat. Sorghum is most commonly used in this area. Soybeans, sunflowers, and corn can also be used. In selection your crop choice one must consider the economic and environmental factors that may effect that crop.

Grain Sorghum: 86P20, & 88Y88, are all excellent double crop sorghums and can be planted through the last week of June into early July.

Soybeans: 42A84E, 44Z67BE, 48A14E, 47Z15BE, & 46T97SE all have different applications, but should work well for double crop. (Note if Finesse, Gleen, Alley, Amber, and other similar herbicides were used on wheat, the use of STS beans for double crop is advised.)

Sunflowers: 63ME01 or 63HE501 are good choices.

Corn: P0487PCE or P05081AML are the best choices. Probably the least likely option for double crop, but there is good yield potential under irrigation. We would recommend earworm protection corns for late season stress.

Delayed Soybean Planting Considerations

In wet springs, it is not unusual for soybean planting in the U.S. Corn Belt to extend into June.
Drastic management changes are generally not required with later planting; however, some adjustments may when soybean planting is delayed

VARIETY RELATIVE MATURITY

- Switching to an earlier maturity variety is generally not necessary unless planting is delayed past mid-June.
- Compared to corn, soybean has a greater ability to adjust to later planting.
- A 5-year Iowa State University field study comparing yield of 1.7 and 3.0 MG varieties across a range of planting dates found that the later maturity variety had greater yield, even with planting in early June (Figure 1).
- Later planted soybean will take longer to reach physiological maturity, but not by a lot – Generally, a 3-week delay in planting equates to a 1-week delay in physiological maturity.
- A South Dakota State University study found that switching from a 2.8 to a 1.8 MG variety with mid-June planting only reduced the time to maturity by 5 days (Nygren et al., 2019).
- If planting is delayed past mid-June, it is generally recommended to switch to a variety 0.5 to 1.0 MG shorter than normal for your area, as frost prior to maturity becomes more of a concern with very late-planted soybean. Consult your Pioneer sales professional for specific variety recommendations.

ROW SPACING

- Soybean agronomists often recommend narrower rows (15 inches or less) with later planting to allow quicker canopy closure.
- Earlier canopy closure is generally advantageous for maximizing yield potential and suppressing weeds.
- Narrower rows are generally advantageous in soybean regardless of planting date though, yielding 3-4 bu/acre more than 30-inch rows on average, and some studies have not shown this advantage to increase with later planting.

SEEDING RATE

- It is commonly recommended to increase soybean seeding rate by around 10% above normal with June planting, although research results have been somewhat mixed on this point.
- Seeding rate practices can vary widely, so the need for a bump up in seeding rate will depend somewhat on individual circumstances and what is “normal” practice for the operation.
- Ohio State University recommends targeting a final stand of 130,000 to 150,000 plants/acre for soybean planted in June (Lindsey, 2019).



Ag Risk Management

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