

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE  
AND HOME ECONOMICS

Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and United States  
Department of Agriculture Co-operating

L-12

February, 1930

**IMPORTANT STEPS IN GROWING SOY BEANS**

By E. A. Miller, Extension Agronomist

1. The soy bean is well adapted to the soil and climatic conditions of a large part of the cotton region. It will grow on practically any soil that produces cowpeas successfully.

2. Soy beans are well adapted to plant in alternate rows with corn or grain sorghum. Also to follow after oats or other small grain in East Texas.

3. The seed bed should be prepared at least as well as that for cotton, corn or grain sorghum. It pays to have the land well prepared.

4. Some good varieties are the Laredo, Mammoth Yellow, Biloxi and Ootootan. The Laredo is the most popular variety. It has the advantage of being resistant to root knot, caused by nematodes and hence it is better adapted to sandy soils.

5. If soy beans follow a crop that was well fertilized, no additional fertilizer is necessary. In other cases, however, it is usually profitable to apply from 100 to 200 lbs. per acre, of superphosphate, especially on poor soil.

6. Do not plant soy beans until the soil has become warm. If inter-planted with corn or grain sorghum, plant the beans when these crops are from 2 to 3 feet high, as earlier planting often reduces the grain yield.

7. If soy beans have not been grown on the land, it is advisable to inoculate the seed with bacterial culture, or to give the field a light application of soil from a soy bean field, and harrowing or disking this soil into the land.

8. When planted for hay in 3 ft. rows, at least one bu. of seed per acre of the larger varieties, or  $\frac{1}{2}$  bu. of the Laredo variety is required. In alternate rows with corn or grain sorghum, half of these amounts is sufficient.

9. The crop is planted very similar to that of cotton, with an ordinary planter. The cultivation is also similar to that of other row crops, by giving enough shallow cultivation to keep down weeds.

10. Soy beans should be harvested for hay as soon as the pods begin to form, as otherwise a coarse woody hay would be produced.

11. Soy beans are more easily cured than cowpeas. The hay should be partially cured in the swath before raking it into wind-rows. It may be allowed to cure in the wind-rows or shocked on hollow racks made of poles.

12. In harvesting the crop for seed, the beans should be allowed to fully develop as indicated by all of the leaves having become brown and the pods well filled. Bean threshers are on the market. Grain threshers with some adjustments, may also be used.