

IMPORTANT STEPS IN GROWING SOY BEANS

By E. A. Miller, Extension Agronomist

1. The soy bean is 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. However, seed production varies greatly from year to year depending on weather conditions, and yields are uncertain.

2. Soy beans are well adapted to plant in alternate rows with corn or grain sorghum and 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, Mamloxi, Mammoth Yellow, Biloxi and Ootootan. The Laredo is the most popular variety for hay. It has the advantage of being resistant to root knot caused by nematodes and hence it is better adapted to sandy soils. The Mamloxi, a cross between the Mammoth Yellow and Biloxi, is the most shatter proof and is rich in oil.

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. It is very important to inoculate the seed with bacterial culture before planting, as the bacteria produce nodules on the roots and utilize the nitrogen from the air. The culture may be obtained either from your local seed dealer or from the larger seed houses.

8. When planted for hay in 3 ft. rows, $\frac{3}{4}$ bu. of seed per acre of the larger seeded varieties, or $\frac{1}{2}$ bu. of the Laredo variety is required. In alternate rows with corn or grain sorghum, and when grown for seed in three foot rows half of these amounts is sufficient.

9. The crop is planted very similar to the way in which cotton is planted 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 develop fully as indicated by all 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.