Estimating Soybean Yields May Be Helpful With Late Planted Soybeans

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Find the number of feet of row needed to make 1/1000th of an acre. Use 74'8" for 7 inch rows; 34'10" for 15 inch rows; 17'5" for 30 inch rows.

Find the plant population by counting the number of plants in several different randomly selected sample areas and calculate an average. Multiply the average by 1000. This equals the number of plants per acre. (Use at least 10 sample areas to increase accuracy. More samples may be needed if the field is highly variable.)

Find the number of pods per plant by counting the pods on 10 randomly selected plants from each sample area. Calculate an average over all plants in all sample areas. (Pod number is highly variable and errors in this estimate can greatly affect the answer.)

Find the number of pods per acre by multiplying the answer in step 2 with your answer in step 3.

Find the number of seeds per acre by multiplying your answer in step 4 by 2.5. (This assumes that the average number of seeds per pod equals 2.5. Your field may be quite different.)

Find the number of pounds per acre by dividing 2,500 into your answer in step 5. (Seed size in soybean varies greatly among varieties and environments. If stand is sparse, seed number per pound is reduced – larger seeds. If frost or drought speeds maturity, seed number per pound is increased – smaller seed.

Estimate yield by dividing 60 into your answer in step 6. Be cautious, there are many places to make errors. Δ

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