

Pioneer Talks Crops

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Thus far, 2012 is proving to be an opposite year compared to 2011. Last

spring we were fighting record floods, and this year we are at least 7 inches behind on yearly rainfall totals with above-average temperatures in the upper mid-south. We

sometimes expect that one extreme follows another, and this year is no exception.

Growers will need to assess soybean stands on some early-planted fields. There were several acres of soybeans planted in the upper mid-south prior to the rain events at the end of the first week in May. The recent hot temperatures and dry weather left us without enough soil moisture to get some of our planted soybeans up. Some growers received rain and some are still waiting.

Regardless of the situation, soybean stands can be assessed within seven to 10 days of planting or after adequate rainfall is received. Soybeans will compensate well to various plant populations but it is important to determine how much stand exists to make a good replant decision. A general rule of thumb is to replant if the surviving population is less than 75 percent of the desired population.

Following are some considerations to take into account before replanting soybeans:

• **Plant population** – Replant is recommended at less than 75 percent stand. Most university

trials indicate that with a uniform stand of 80,000 plants per acre, it would not be economical to replant. Most studies agree that optimum stand for Group IV soybeans is about 100,000 to 110,000 plants per acre in most situations. Optimum stand for Group V soybeans is usually a little lower at about 90,000 to 100,000 plants per acre.

• **Plant distribution** – The more uniform the stand loss, the better the soybeans will be able to compensate for a reduced stand.

• **Variety** – Soybean varieties with bushier canopy types compensate more readily than narrow canopy types.

• **Other factors** – Consider the calendar date, soil moisture, row spacing, weed control and the total cost before making the replant decision. Many growers jump the gun on replanting soybeans, without doing adequate stand counts.

Watch for armyworm infestations in corn. I have received several calls this year regarding armyworm infestations in wheat.

Typically, armyworms will go looking for something or somewhere else to feed once they have eaten all the leaves in the wheat or the field has begun to mature. Cornfields are usually close and make for easy targets for marching armyworms. Armyworms can do a lot of damage in a short period so watch cornfields in close proximity to maturing wheat fields. If the corn is past the V6 stage and significant damage is noticed, then the field may need to be treated with a labeled insecticide. Δ

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