

Soybeans On Sand Require Special Attention

BETTY VALLE GEGG-NAEGER
MidAmerica Farmer Grower

SIKESTON, MO.

Growing soybeans on sand was a topic discussed recently by Dr. Grover Shannon, professor of soybean genetics and breeding at the University of Missouri Delta Center.

"There's a lot of cotton that's been traditionally grown on sand. Now some are going to soybeans because of prices," he said. "Cotton prices have been low, soybean prices are holding up better and there are several things that the grower really has to be careful about to make the most of growing soybeans on sand."

The first concern, he said, is the variety the farmer chooses.

"That's very important because on sand there is a lot of nematode pressure, mainly root knot nematode," Shannon cautioned. "It is probably worse than soybean cyst nematode which we've been dealing with for a long time; but root knot nematode is a major disease on sand at least in this area. Corn and cotton are hosts for root knot nematode, so it's hard to get away from it. The main thing farmers need to remember is to choose a variety that has some good root knot resistance."

If a farmer is going to grow beans on sand for the long haul or as a cash crop each year, he should consider using grain sorghum in the rotation which is a non-host for root knot and cyst nematodes to minimize nematode pressure. A lot of people don't like grain sorghum but that's probably the only choice there is now that is not a host to root knot nematode.

Another thing to remember, if planting soy-

beans on sand and a field has been out of beans for two-three years, is to use an inoculant on the seed. Inoculants contain the bacteria rhizobium which induces nodulation for the plant to make nitrogen. Also, he should make sure fertility, especially P and K, is adequate.

Finally, soybeans will need a lot more water



Dr. Grover Shannon Professor of Soybean Genetics and Breeding at the University of Missouri Delta Center.

Photo by John LaRose Jr.

on sand. Farmers should pay close attention to irrigation and expect to apply water more frequently.

"If they do these things, they will have a much better chance to make a profit from soybeans on sand," he summed. Δ

BETTY VALLE GEGG-NAEGER: Senior Staff Writer, MidAmerica Farmer Grower



Link Directly To: **AgVENTURE**



Link Directly To: **APACHE**



Link Directly To: **PIONEER**