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Court Seeds



Agronomy Notes

Choosing the best soybean for your farm

Selecting the right soybean variety for your area is not always black and white, and good reliable data can be hard to find. Before assessing any soybean data try to determine where the trials were conducted. Most soybean information is collected in Southern Ontario, where longer day length and higher heat units can produce misleading figures. Data from trials conducted on the prairies will give you a better indication of the variety's traits when grown in your area.

While it's easy to be attracted to big yield numbers when selecting varieties, keep in mind the highest yielding beans tend to be long-season varieties which will require more heat units to mature. Thus, we must carefully manage the fine balancing act between yield potential and maturity. Consult your provincial climate maps to determine the typical number of heat units you can expect for your growing area. From there, look for varieties that fall

near or below your average heat unit number to ensure your beans will mature on time. This may restrict variety choice for anyone farming in the fringe areas of bean country but it's important if you expect to harvest a quality crop.

As with any crop there is more to choosing a soybean than just yield and maturity – be sure to consider other traits like IDC rating, disease resistance, growth habit and herbicide tolerance.

Iron Deficiency Chlorosis (IDC) ratings are of particular importance for varieties grown on the prairies. When soybeans are grown on soils with high pH, salinity issues or poor drainage, a lack of available iron in the soil can create a deficiency in the plant, ultimately leading to reduced yield and plant vigour. The most effective way to avoid IDC is through proper field and variety selection, because IDC tolerance can vary widely between varieties.



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For growers considering soybeans for the first time this year, there are a number of early-maturing, high-yielding varieties on the market that would be a good fit for any farm.

NSC Moosomin (2300 CHU) and *NSC Reston* (2325 CHU) are two new varieties from NorthStar Genetics and some of the lowest heat unit soybeans available. Another great option is *23-10RY* (2325 CHU) from DEKALB, well known for its high yield potential and early maturity. All of these varieties are available at Court Seeds for the 2014 growing season but in limited supply.

Book early to guarantee the best genetics for your farm.

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