



# THE SEED CONSULTANT

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE FIELD

## CROP ROTATION AND SECOND-YEAR SOYBEAN YIELDS

Avoiding a soybean  
yield penalty

## SCI WINTER MEETINGS

Mark your calendar now  
for an event near you

## AN EASY HACK FOR INCREASING SOYBEAN YIELDS

Get early planted  
soybeans off to a great  
start

## PLANTING EARLY? MATCH THE RIGHT HYBRID TO THE RIGHT CONDITIONS

Match the right  
genetics to the right  
environment

# CROP ROTATION AND SECOND-YEAR SOYBEAN YIELDS



**By Matt Hutcheson, CCA**

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As growers plan for the 2026 season, crop rotation decisions will play a key role in maximizing yields. While much attention is often given to continuous corn and its yield penalties, there is another important consideration: the impacts of continuous soybeans.

In the article, “Yield Penalty from Second Year Soybean,” the University of Kentucky’s John Grove discusses soybean yields for first year and second year soybeans from 2009 to 2016. His research shows that second-year soybeans suffer an average yield penalty of 2.3 bushels per acre, with some years seeing losses of more than 10 bushels per acre.

Yield reductions from continuous crops are typically linked to increased disease pressure and pest issues. Diseases that overwinter in

crop residue become more severe in continuous soybean systems, especially under no-till practices. Soybean cyst nematode presence can also increase with continuous soybean production. Additionally, hard-to-control weeds like marestail can spread and rob yield as well.

To manage these risks, the No-Till Farmer article, “9 Tips for Growing Second-Year Soybeans,” by Shawn P. Conley, Seth Naeve, and John Gaska recommends strategies such as:

- Rotating crops whenever possible
- Selecting resistant varieties
- Adjusting seeding rates and row widths
- Considering tillage practices

As you plan acreage for 2026, keep in mind that continuous soybeans can lead to significant yield losses.

#### SOURCES:

<https://graincrops.blogspot.com/2017/01/yield-penalty-from-second-year-soybean.html>  
<https://www.no-tillfarmer.com/articles/6316-tips-for-growing-second-year-soybeans>



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# JOIN US FOR WINTER AGRONOMY MEETINGS!

During January and February of 2026 Seed Consultants will host Winter Agronomy Meetings across the eastern Corn Belt.

In addition to a review of 2025, agronomists will address important factors that are currently affecting our customers.

<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 6</b>	<b>LAKE VIEW LOFT</b> 10215 Jones Rd. • Hillsboro, OH 45133	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7</b>	<b>RUSTY KEG</b> 1801 Columbus Ave. • Washington Court House, OH 43160	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7</b>	<b>ATTICA FAIRGROUNDS/BRAD WILLIAMS CATERING</b> 15127 E. Township Rd. • Attica, OH 44807	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7</b>	<b>HERMAN AND LUTHERS**</b> 787 PA-87 • Montoursville, PA 17754	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 8</b>	<b>BARN AT THE BACKWOODS</b> 8572 High Point Rd. • Thornville, OH 43076	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 8</b>	<b>COUNTRYSIDE DELI BANQUET HALL**</b> 935 Henderson Avenue • Washington, PA 15301	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 13</b>	<b>ROB'S CATERING</b> 705 Arlington Rd. • Brookville, OH 45309	<b>9:30 AM AND 11:30 AM</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14</b>	<b>RED PIG INN</b> 1470 N Perry St. • Ottawa, OH 45875	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14</b>	<b>SHADY MAPLE SMORGASBORD**</b> 129 Toddy Drive • East Earl, PA 17519	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 15</b>	<b>CARLISLE INN WALNUT CREEK</b> 4949 Walnut St. • Walnut Creek, OH 44687	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 15</b>	<b>SKEETER'S BBQ**</b> 106 Victor Lane • Shamokin Dam, PA 17876	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3</b>	<b>ALL OCCASIONS CATERING</b> 6989 Waldo-Delaware Rd. • Waldo, OH 43356	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3</b>	<b>CLAUDIA SANDERS DINNER HOUSE</b> 3202 Shelbyville Rd. • Shelbyville, KY 40065	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4</b>	<b>BACK 40 JUNCTION</b> 1011 N 13th St. • Decatur, IN 46733	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5</b>	<b>SEED CONSULTANTS, INC. SALEM WAREHOUSE</b> 205 Joseph St. • Salem, IN 47167	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5</b>	<b>BONANZA STEAKHOUSE**</b> 1635 Lincoln Way E. • Chambersburg, PA 17202	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10</b>	<b>HARTVILLE KITCHEN</b> 1015 Edison St. NW • Hartville, OH 44632	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11</b>	<b>ALVORDTON COMMUNITY CENTER</b> 205 Anderson Avenue • Alvordton, Ohio 43501	<b>11:30 AM</b>

**RSVP:** Please call 800-708-2676 to RSVP for a meeting. For all meetings with \*\* please call 800-853-2676.



# AN EASY HACK FOR INCREASING SOYBEAN YIELDS

**By J.D. Bethel, CCA**

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How do I get to that next level with soybean yields? This is a question I get all the time from growers, neighbors, other Seed Consultants employees and even my own family(!). In classic agronomist fashion, the answer is, it depends.

To say that there are multiple factors that influence soybean yield would be putting it mildly. What was your planting population? What was your plant population at harvest? How many pods are on the plant at harvest? What proportion of those pods are 2-bean, 3-bean, or 4-bean pods? Did it rain in August? Was there any disease pressure? How big are the seeds at harvest? Are you harvesting soybeans at 13% moisture or 9% moisture?

One cropping practice that I have seen consistently increase soybean yields is by simply planting earlier in the calendar year. With all the soybean yield factors listed above being equal, a plant with more soybeans is going to outyield a plant with fewer soybeans. But how does planting earlier in the calendar year increase the number

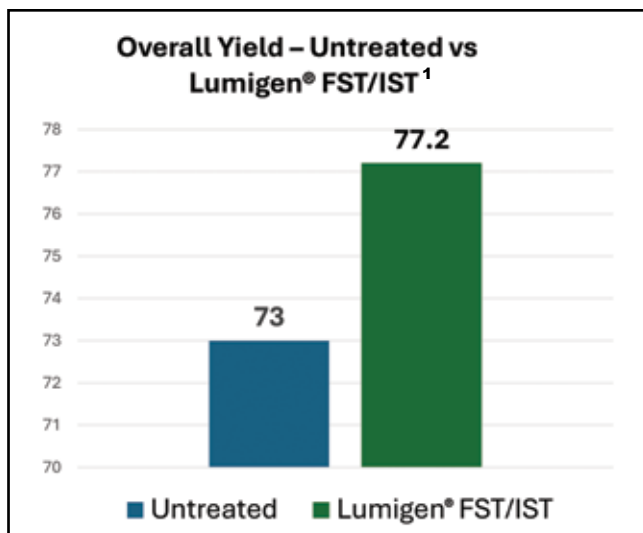
of soybeans on a plant? By planting earlier in the calendar year, we are giving the plant more time to stack nodes. Every additional node you can stack on each individual plant by the end of the year is going to hold an additional 2-5 pods that you would never have if you delayed planting. We can't control the weather, but we can set the table for higher yields by influencing the number of nodes on a plant by the end of the season.

What does early planting mean exactly? My definition of planting early is for the planter to be in the field, planting soybeans on the early plant date for your county. For Madison county Ohio, where I live, the early plant date for soybeans is April 10th – your date will vary. It is not uncommon for some growers to wait until the middle of May to start planting soybeans. That delay in planting represents 5 weeks of potential yield loss due to the reduction in nodes that could have been achieved by planting on April 10th.

Planting early is not all sunshine and roses though... Soils are colder, heavy rain events are

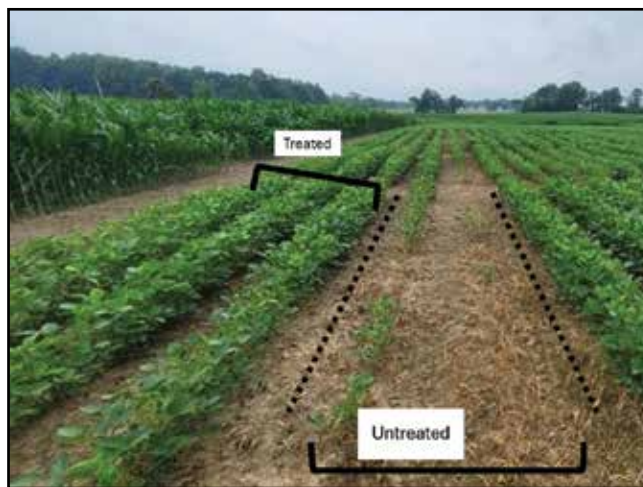
more frequent, and seedling diseases thrive in these conditions. Planting early to set the table for higher yields doesn't work if you have to replant entire fields 5 weeks later due to reduced stands. One way to help stack the deck in your favor is to utilize LumiGEN® Seed Treatments. Every Seed Consultants sales representative has a story about our soybeans sitting in cold soil for weeks under rain and sometimes snow, but when they get called to check the field, every single soybean eventually emerged.

In 2025, the Seed Consultants Agronomy Research Team implemented a replicated research trial at 10 locations across Ohio between untreated soybeans and LumiGEN® FST/IST seed treatment premium package treated soybeans. Across



those 10 locations in 2025 we saw a 4.2 bu/ac¹ yield increase from using LumiGEN® FST/IST compared to untreated soybeans. The picture below shows what happens to untreated soybeans in stressful stand establishment situations.

Planting soybeans earlier in the calendar year is the easiest way, in my opinion, to increase soybeans yields. This is not without risk due to cold soils and challenging



growing conditions. However, there are tools available to help get your newly planted soybeans off to a great start. Please speak with your local Seed Consultants representative to discuss ways to protect your seed investment and start the growing season with a win!

<sup>1</sup> Data is based on an average of 100 comparisons made in Ohio in 2025. Comparisons are against Seed Consultants untreated varieties unless otherwise stated, and within a relative maturity of 2.9-3.3. Contact your Seed Consultants sales professional for the latest and complete listing of traits and scores for the products provided subject to the terms and conditions of purchase which are part of the labeling and purchase documents.

Product responses are variable and subject to a number of environmental, disease and pest pressures. Individual results may vary. Multi-year and multi-location data are a better predictor of performance. DO NOT USE THIS OR ANY OTHER DATA FROM A LIMITED NUMBER OF TRIALS AS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN PRODUCT SELECTION.

Components of LumiGEN® seed treatments for soybeans are applied at a Corteva Agriscience production facility, or by an independent sales representative of Corteva Agriscience or its affiliates. Not all sales representatives offer treatment services, and costs and other charges may vary. See your sales representative for details. Seed applied technologies exclusive to Corteva Agriscience and its affiliates.







# PLANTING EARLY? MATCH THE RIGHT HYBRID TO THE RIGHT CONDITIONS

**By Jordan Bassler**

Portfolio and Agronomy Leader

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## **MORE FARMERS ARE PLANTING EARLIER**

Each year, I see more farmers moving up their planting dates—sometimes just a few days earlier, sometimes a week or more. That shift can be a great way to capture more of the growing season, but it also means putting seed into soils that may still be cold and wet. When planting early, choosing hybrids with proven early vigor and stress emergence becomes critical.

It is generally accepted that soil needs to be 50 degrees to start planting, but corn germinates best in soils around 85 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit. We all know early-planted fields rarely reach those higher temperatures. In many parts of the eastern Corn Belt, especially on heavier clay soils

that hold moisture and warm up slowly, seeds face real challenges from the beginning. That's where the right genetics make a difference.

## **TESTED FOR STRESS: THE PRECISION STRESS TEST**

At Seed Consultants, we test every hybrid using Corteva Agriscience's Precision Stress Test (PST)—a proprietary vigor test designed to mimic cold, saturated soils, and identify hybrids that perform well under stress. This process exposes seed to extreme chilling and oxygen deprivation—conditions similar to what our customers encounter in early-planted fields. The result is a stress-emergence rating that shows which products can handle tough starts and still produce consistent stands.

## HYBRID RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EARLY PLANTING

I use those results every day when I help growers select hybrids for early planting. Certain products rise to the top because they combine strong emergence with rapid early growth once they're out of the ground. Here are several examples across maturity zones that I recommend when farmers want to plant early into cooler, heavier soils:

- SC 856 brand
- SC 901 brand
- SC 946 brand
- SC 1006 brand
- SC 1055 brand
- SC 1094 brand
- SC 1135 brand
- SC 1185 brand

When I'm looking at hybrids for customers, I think about more than genetics—I also remind growers to manage the basics that affect emergence. Planting depth should be about two inches, deep enough for uniform moisture but not so deep that seedlings struggle to reach the surface. And just as important, make sure the seed trench is fully

closed. If you can see a seed at the bottom of the furrow, you've already invited uneven emergence.

## PLANT EARLY, PLANT SMART

Even with the best hybrids, early planting needs patience and planning. However, the payoff can be significant—strong early stands lead to higher yields and can reduce the risk of replanting later. By choosing your hybrid to match your field conditions, especially on slower-warming clay soils, you're setting your crop up for success right from the moment the planter leaves the field.

My best advice? Don't just plant early—plant smart. Talk with your Seed Consultants sales professional about which hybrids offer the best early-season performance for your operation. You can also review each product's stress emergence and early vigor scores on our website at: <https://www.seedconsultants.com/products>.

When soil conditions are cool and spring comes early, I want every seed you plant to have the power and vigor to break through strongly. That's how we make early planting pay off—by matching the right genetics to the right environment from the very start.



## EARLY CASH DISCOUNTS

Seed Consultants offers opportunities to maximize seed cost savings through an early cash discount schedule for the 2026 planting season.

### CASH DISCOUNTS

December-January 10, 2026.....	10%	March 2026.....	4%
January 11-31, 2026 .....	8%	April 2026 .....	2%
February 2026.....	6%		

If you have any questions, please call the office at 800-708-2676.



# ABOVE, BELOW AND EVERY PEST IN BETWEEN

Vorceed™ Enlist® corn hybrids from Seed Consultants are highly effective against western corn rootworm, northern corn rootworm and Mexican corn rootworm. With six modes of action against aboveground and belowground pests, we help farmers get to the bottom of insect control to take their yield potential higher than ever. Add in herbicide tolerance from the flexible Enlist® weed control system for management of the toughest weeds, and you have hybrids that are simply better.



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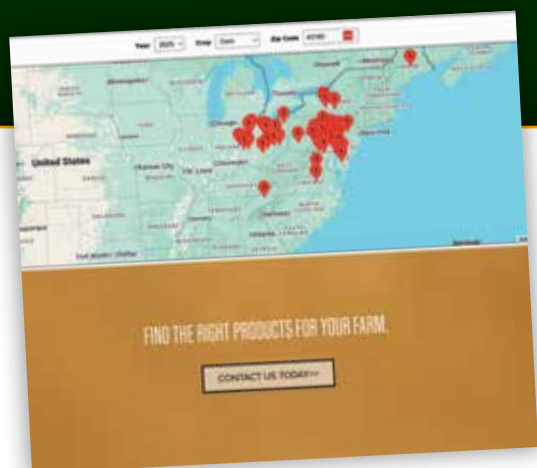


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# PRODUCT USE GUIDE

Part of growing healthy crops is making sure they are protected with the right products. Visit the product page on our website to view our product use guide for information about insect control and herbicide tolerance to support technologies in our seed.



## STILL WONDERING WHAT TO PLANT FOR 2026?

See how some of our Seed Consultants brand hybrids and varieties performed in 2025 in plots and third party yield trials.

**VISIT [SEEDCONSULTANTS.COM](https://seedconsultants.com)  
TO LEARN MORE.**



## GREAT GIFTS FOR THE ENTIRE CREW!

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TO SEE WHAT'S NEW.**



# FINANCING SEED CONSULTANTS, INC.

## TWO GREAT FINANCING CHOICES FOR 2025-2026 0% THROUGH JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL 0% THROUGH RABO AGRIFINANCE

These financing programs are only available to John Deere Financial Preferred Customers and/or RABO AgriFinance approved customers. To apply for a John Deere Financial Preferred Account or RABO account or to increase your John Deere Financial or RABO line of credit, contact John Deere Financial (800-433-8964) or RABO (888-395-8505), so the necessary paperwork may be completed with John Deere Financial &/or RABO.

### JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL & RABO GUIDELINES

- Must be a John Deere Financial Preferred Customer or approved by RABO AgriFinance.
- Approval and credit limits established by John Deere Financial &/or RABO...not by SCI.
- Terms and conditions apply. See respective credit applications for full terms and disclosures.
- To increase or establish your credit line call John Deere Financial (800-433-8964) or RABO (888-395-8505).
- Must be enrolled and approved to qualify for discounts.
- Discounts applied on approval date from John Deere Financial &/or RABO.
- Signed terms of disclosure on file.
- Minimum purchase of \$1,000.
- Due date of December 2026.

Finance Plan	DISCOUNT SCHEDULE	
	John Deere Financial	RABO
Purchase & Approval Date	Fixed 0%	Fixed 0%
December - January 10, 2026	2.0%	2.0%
January 2026	0.0%	0.0%
February 2026	0.0%	0.0%
March 2026	0.0%	0.0%
April 2026	0.0%	0.0%
May 2026	0.0%	0.0%
In Season	0.0%	0.0%



# BUY INTO BETTER SOYBEANS.

Seed Consultants brand Enlist E3® soybeans are bred, tested and proven to perform in the eastern Corn Belt. Buy into a seed experience that puts reliability and results first.

Visit [seedconsultants.com](https://seedconsultants.com) to learn more.



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## Seed Consultants

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## Don't miss a thing

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**Q (Qrome®)** Contains a single-bag integrated refuge solution for above- and below-ground insects. The major component contains the Agrisure® RW trait, the Bt trait, and the Herculex® XTRA genes. In EPA-designated cotton growing counties, a 20% separate corn borer refuge must be planted with Qrome products.

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**RR2** Contains the Roundup Ready® Corn 2 trait that provides crop safety for over-the-top applications of labeled glyphosate herbicides when applied according to label directions. ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS. Roundup Ready® crops contain genes that confer tolerance to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup® brand agricultural herbicides. Roundup® brand agricultural herbicides will kill crops that are not tolerant to glyphosate.

**AM - Optimum® AcreMax® Insect Protection** system with YGCB, HX1, LL, RR2. Contains a single-bag integrated refuge solution for above-ground insects.

**AMXT (Optimum® AcreMax® XTreme)** Contains a single-bag integrated refuge solution for above- and below-ground insects. The major component contains the Agrisure® RW trait, a Bt trait, and the Herculex® XTRA genes. In EPA-designated cotton growing counties, a 20% separate corn borer refuge must be planted with Optimum AcreMax and Optimum AcreMax XTreme products.

**HX1** Contains the Herculex® I Insect Protection gene which provides protection against European corn borer, southwestern corn borer, black cutworm, fall armyworm, lesser corn stalk borer, southern corn stalk borer, and sugarcane borer; and suppresses corn earworm.

**AQ Optimum® AQUAmax®** product. Product performance in water-limited environments is variable and depends on many factors, such as the severity and timing of moisture deficiency, heat stress, soil type, management practices and environmental stress, as well as disease and pest pressures. All products may exhibit reduced yield under water and heat stress. Individual results may vary.

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**PCE - POWERCORE® ENLIST® REFUGE ADVANCED®** corn products with AVBL, HX1, VTP, ENL, LL, RR2. Contains a single-bag integrated refuge solution for above-ground insects. In EPA-designated cotton-growing counties, a 20% separate corn borer refuge must be planted with PowerCore Ultra Enlist Refuge Advanced products.

**V - VORCEED® ENLIST®** products with V, LL, RR, ENL. Contains a single-bag integrated refuge solution with multiple modes of action for above- and below-ground insects. The major component contains the Herculex® XTRA genes, the RW3 trait and the VTP trait. In EPA-designated cotton growing counties, a 20% separate corn borer refuge must be planted for Vorceed Enlist products.

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Following burndown, Enlist Duo® and Enlist One® herbicides with Colex-D® technology are the only herbicides containing 2,4-D that are authorized for preemergence and postemergence use with Enlist® crops. Consult Enlist® herbicide labels for weed species controlled. Enlist Duo and Enlist One herbicides are not registered for use or sale in all states and counties; are not registered in AK, CA, CT, HI, ID, MA, ME, MT, NH, NV, OR, RI, UT, VT, WA and WY; and have additional subcounty restrictions in AL, GA, TN and TX, while existing county restrictions still remain in FL. All users must check "Bulletins Live! Two" no earlier than six months before using Enlist One or Enlist Duo. To obtain "Bulletins," consult [epa.gov/espp/](http://epa.gov/espp/), call 1-844-447-3813, or email [ESPP@epa.gov](mailto:ESPP@epa.gov). You must use the

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