



Roundup Ready Soybean Planting Tips

FERTILIZER:

- Optimum pH for soybean is between 6.0 and 7.0; 6.5 is ideal.
- **It is recommended that you fertilize according to your farm's soil test** (taken in summer or fall) analyzed by your State Extension Service. Your soil may not be capable of supporting food-plot growth as it is. Putting soil pH in balance may be all that is needed and can save money on fertilizer. If you don't have a soil test, use inoculant and 0-40-70 (units). Soybeans remove a minimum of 40 lbs of Phosphorous and 70 lbs of Potassium. For maximum deer antler and body weight production, Dr. Grant Woods, deer biologist, uses 0-70-120 (units).
- We recommend that you inoculate soybeans with *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* each year. Inoculant is required when the soil has either high or low pH, has been water-logged or extremely cold, or has no recent history of soybean growth. Nitrogen is not needed on decent soil if the soybeans are inoculated. Starter N is fine. For best results, apply soybean inoculant (not just a seed coating) to the seed just prior to planting.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION:

- It is best to start with a clean, weed-free seed bed. Use tillage or a preplant herbicide such as Roundup, Gramoxone, or 2, 4-D depending on your emerged weeds.
- **There are many versions of products sold with the Roundup name. Use a version that contains only Glyphosate and no other active ingredient.** Roundup PowerMax and WeatherMax are the best products; follow label directions. Glyphosate can be applied to the crop at any time, but weeds need to be controlled in the first 3 to 4 weeks to maximize soybean plant growth. It is important to spray weeds before they reach 4 inches in height to prevent building a resistant weed seed bank.

PLANTING TIME, DEPTH, SPACINGS:

- Check with your local extension service for optimum dates. Usually, the optimal date is after your last spring frost when the soil temperature at a one inch planting depth is above 65°F. In general, most northern food plots can be planted in late May or early June. Southern food plots can usually be planted in late April to early May. **Soybeans have a different kind of emergence, so it is usually best to plant after a rain.** Rain can cause surface soil compaction and crusting which prevents plant establishment.
- The recommended planting depth is 3/4 to 1 inch into a moist soil. Avoid planting in a dry soil, or in muddy conditions.
- When broadcasting, increase your seeding rate to 75 lbs or more per acre since not every seed will have proper seed to soil contact.
- Seed size will vary, so use a minimum of one bag to the acre. The chart is provided to calibrate your drill or planter based on row width. If planting in less than optimal conditions or heavy deer densities, use the higher plant population and a narrower row, up to 15 inches in width.

INTER-SEEDING WITH ROUNDUP READY CORN:

To maximize plant growth for both species, it is best to plant soybean and corn in separate patches. If you prefer inter-seeding them, studies show that optimum results are achieved with 3-5 lbs corn and one bag per acre of soybeans. Add N for the corn, soybeans will fix only enough for their own use.

ESTABLISHMENT:

Use deer deterrents for the first 4-8 weeks, especially in areas of heavy deer pressure, cooler than normal temperatures, or small plot areas. You can use products such as Milorganite or pepper-based deterrents. An electric fence is the best method.

DRAINAGE:

Make sure your crops have good drainage. Soybean plant growth and nitrogen fixation can be lost when water stands on an area for 3 or more days.

Row Spacing	140,000	175,000	200,000
	Seeds per row foot for each population desired		
38" row	10.2	12.7	14.5
36" row	9.6	12.1	13.8
30" row	8.0	10.0	11.5
20" row	5.4	6.7	7.7
15" row	4.0	5	5.7*
7.5" row	2.0	2.5	2.9*
Broadcast/ square foot	3.2	4.0	4.6*
RECOM- MENDED SOIL CONDITIONS AND DEER DENSITY	Use this rate for good soil conditions or low deer density	Use this rate for normal deer density	*Use this rate for less than ideal soil and/or heavy deer density

Data compiled from multiple states and sources including extension and university data.
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