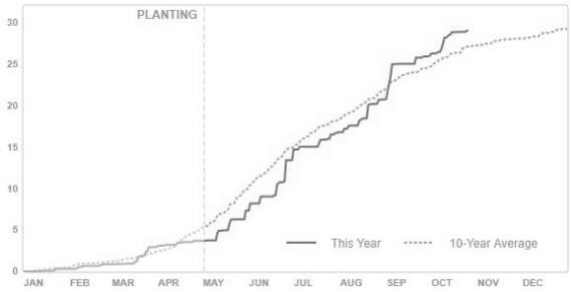
Group 2.4 versus Group 3.5 Soybean Maturity with Early Planting

Study ID: 0006159201801
County: Seward
Soil Type: Fillmore silt loam frequently ponded; Hastings silt loam 1-3% slope; Hastings silt loam 0-1% slope
Planting Date: 5/2/18
Harvest Date: 9/19/18 and 10/3/18
Population: 120,000
Row Spacing (in): 15
Reps: 6
Previous Crop: Seed Corn
Tillage: No-Till
Herbicides: ***Pre:*** 6 oz/ac Zidua® Pro, 24 oz/ac glyphosate, and 8 oz/ac 2,4-D on 4/23/18 ***Post:*** 12.8 oz/ac Engenia®, 2 qt/100 gal VaporGard™, 12 oz/ac Outlook®, 10 oz/ac Volunteer®, and 32 oz/ac glyphosate on 5/29/18

Seed Treatment: Treatments applied by seed dealer
Foliar Insecticides: None
Foliar Fungicides: None
Fertilizer: None
Irrigation: Pivot, Total: 3-4"
Rainfall (in):



Introduction: With early planting of soybean (in April or as close to May 1 as possible), a longer-season variety may help take advantage of the longer growing season. However, some growers are also obtaining high yields with mid-group 2 varieties. The goal of this study was to determine if growers need to plant a longer-season maturity soybean to achieve optimum yields when planting early. A group 2 (Big Cob® BC25CR2x) and group 3 (Big Cob® BC35WR2x) soybean were evaluated. The early maturing soybeans were harvested on September 19 and the late maturing soybeans were harvested on October 3. Harvest loss difference due to different harvest dates was not examined.

Results:

	Harvest Stand Count (plants/ac)	Nodes/ plant	Pods/ plant	Moisture (%)	Yield† (bu/ac)	Marginal Net Return‡ ($/ac)
Group 2.4 (Big Cob® BC24CR2x)	131,333 A*	25 A	72 A	11.8 B	79 A	522.40 A
Group 3.5 (Big Cob® BC35WR2x)	131,000 A	23 B	73 A	15.0 A	78 A	513.89 A
P-Value	0.808	0.051	0.914	<0.0001	0.226	0.226

*Values with the same letter are not significantly different at a 90% confidence level.
†Bushels per acre corrected to 13% moisture.
‡Marginal net return based on $7.40/bu soybean and $63.43/ac for seed and seed treatment. The two varieties tested had the same seed cost.

Summary:

- There were no differences in stand counts or average pods/plant between the two maturity groups tested.
- The early season variety had more nodes per plant than the later season variety.
- The early season variety was also drier at the time of harvest; however, it is important to note that the varieties were harvested on different dates.
- There were no differences in yield or marginal net return between the two varieties tested. Yields for both group 2.4 and group 3.5 soybeans were adjusted to 13% moisture and marginal net return values reported reflect moisture adjusted yields.

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