

Soybean Management Tips

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In order to supply growers with certified soybean seed this year, several soybean seed producing states have lowered the

minimum germination requirement for certified seed to 70 percent. This means that you may need to increase your planting rate accordingly. For example, at a soybean workshop in Lafayette, Indiana, a test of recently harvested soybeans showed only one-fourth had 80 percent germination, half tested between 60 and 79 percent, and the remaining one-fourth tested below 60 percent germination!

Due to high cost of soybean seed and lower germination, this is the year to use seed treatment with a fungicide and/or an insecticide to help prevent seed decay, damping-off, and maggot injury. If both seed treatment and soil inoculation (planting on ground where soybeans have not been planted before) are required, it is considered best to treat the seed several weeks before applying the inoculant. See the Agronomy Guide for additional information on seed treatment.

We recommend that all seed germination be tested. Increase your planting rate to offset low germination. A "Do It Yourself" germination test is included. DO IT!!

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It is important that soybean producers consider disease prevention before planting. After seeds are planted, it is too late for most disease control practices. Seed and/or soil treatment with various plant health products (fungicides, insecticides, etc.), disease-free seed, disease resistant varieties, disease preventing crop rotations, and plowing under crop refuse are commonly employed as preventive management practices to improve health of soybeans. The proper combination of soybean health-promoting practices for an individual grower will depend to a great extent on the diseases that have been a problem in the field under consideration. It is known that disease problems can vary from field to field even on the same farm.

Growers are advised to contact local or State authorities for localized information on soybean diseases and their control.

How to Run a "Do It Yourself" Cold Test for

Determining Soybean Seed Viability

The standard seed laboratory germination test does not provide an accurate criterion for soybean seed viability in the field.

The "cold test" for seedling emergence is a more accurate method of finding out what seeds will do when planted in the field.

Here is how to run a cold test:

1. Count out three (3) 100 seed samples selecting seeds free of cracks, splits, mold and discoloration.

2. Layer each 100 seed sample in a large Dixie Cup or drinking glass alternating a layer of seeds with a layer of field soil.

3. Moisten layered seed samples and store for 7 days at approximately 50 degrees (garage, tool shed or outside building temperature).

4. Plant cold treated seed in flats or baking pans of ordinary sand. Plant 100 seeds in 5 rows of 20 seeds.

5. Moisten planted beans, place in a room at 70-80 degrees (the living room is a good place if you can get away with it).

6. Water daily and start counts of emergence after 4 days, check on 5th, 6th, 7th days and record percentage emergence.

7. Average the three 100 seed samples and this is the percentage emergence you can expect to get in the field.

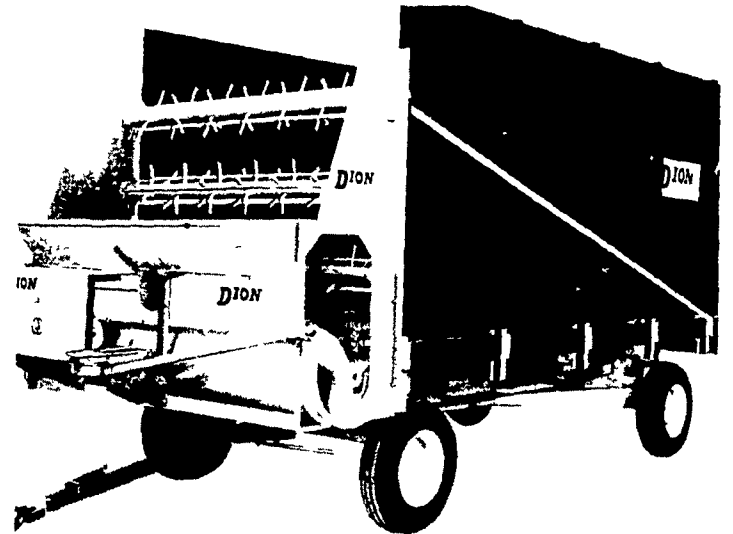
8. A good seed sample should give no less than 70 percent emergence in cold test. This should give 80-90 percent emergence in the field.

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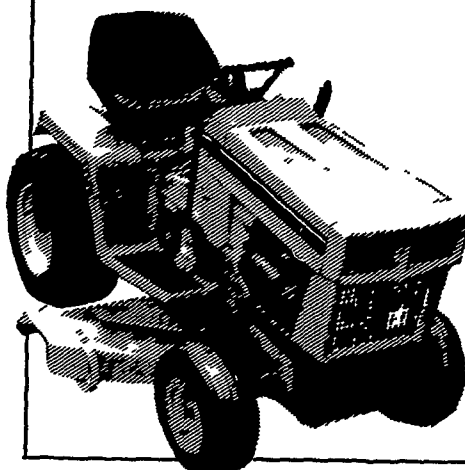
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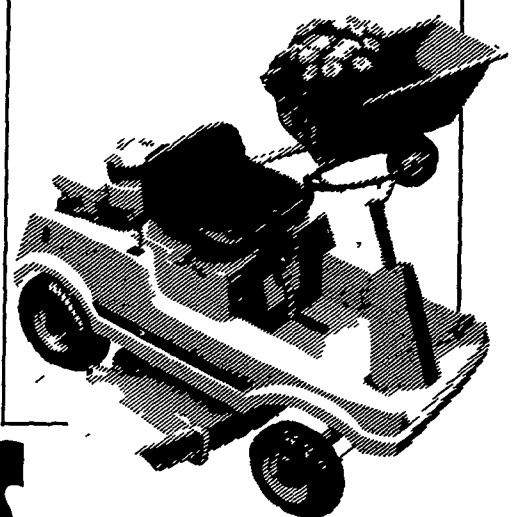
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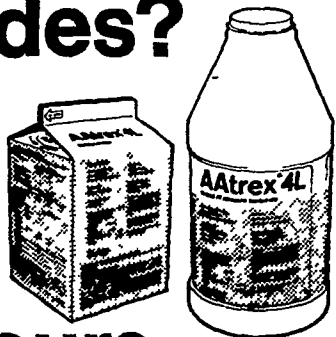
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