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 \* GEORGIA COASTAL PLAIN EXPERIMENT STATION \*  
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SOYBEANS

The soybean is a legume that originally came from China. It is comparatively free from disease and insect injury and can be used for many purposes on the farm. The most common uses are:

- (1) Hay
- (2) Green grazing
- (3) Soil building
- (4) Beans for human food
- (5) Mature beans hogged-off in field
- (6) Seed for feed or oil

The early-introduced soybean varieties were not generally adapted to the South. They were small, low yielding plants often damaged by nematodes. During the past several years selections have been made for large vegetative types with good seed yields and nematode resistance.

Experiments at the Coastal Plain Experiment Station have shown that soybeans should be planted from April 15 to the latter part of May. They may be planted following small grain, but the yield is less when planted this late. Soybeans should be planted in  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -foot rows at the rate of 20 to 25 pounds of seed per acre and cultivated two to three times. The use of fertilizer is not necessary when planted on fair to good soils. It is desirable to inoculate soybean seed, especially when planted on soils that have not previously grown this crop.

Soybeans should be cut for hay when they have attained full growth and the leaf color changes from green to yellowish-green. This is usually before the seed pods are well developed. When hay is cut, it may be cured similar to cowpea hay by the use of tripod poles.

Soybean seed may be easily harvested with a combine. Small areas may be harvested by mowing. If soybeans are mowed, they should be raked immediately into piles to prevent shattering. The beans can be beaten out with a stick or threshed. None of the varieties tested are shatterproof during dry, hot weather.

Soybean seed should never be kept more than one year as germination decreases rapidly.

The following table gives a 14-year average of results obtained from some of the better adapted southern varieties of soybeans. No fertilizer was used but the soybeans were planted on a good Tifton sandy loam soil in a general crop rotation of cotton, corn, peanuts, etc. Beans under 40 inches in height are usually better for grain production and hogging-off than for hay. The Otootan variety is strictly a hay bean in South Georgia. Several varieties are dual purpose beans that can be grown for hay or for seed. Yellow beans are preferred for oil.

Fourteen-Year Average Yield of Some of the Adapted Southern Varieties of Soybeans

Variety	Color Bean	Height Plant in Inches	Date Cut for Hay	Acro Dry Wt. Hay Yld. Lbs.	Date Seed Harvested	Seed Yld. Per Acre Lbs.
Palmetto	Yellow	60	Aug. 26	4664	Oct. 12	1094
Monetta	Yellow	30	Aug. 22	3944	Oct. 10	1089
Missoy	Yellow	56	Aug. 24	4848	Oct. 14	1050
Seminole	Green	26	Aug. 30	4208*	Oct. 15	1034*
Georgian	Yellow	34	Aug. 24	4243	Oct. 11	1021
Haysced	Yellow	49	Aug. 17	4460	Oct. 6	989
Charlee	Yellow	59	Aug. 22	4649	Oct. 10	947
Creole	Yellow	60	Aug. 24	4212	Oct. 13	938
Mathews	Black	46	Aug. 21	3993	Oct. 8	918
Avoylles	Black	53	Aug. 25	4368	Oct. 26	893
Clemson	Yellow	57	Aug. 23	4209	Oct. 12	855
Pluto	Black	28	Aug. 18	3703	Oct. 8	826
Otootan	Black	48	Sept. 1	4519**	Nov. 1	684**

\* Ten years

\*\* Thirteen years