Science Societies

Lessons learned from the North Carolina soybean yield contest

August 4, 2021



County Extension Agent Laura Elmore measures a yield contest plot for the North Carolina Soybean Yield Contest. Photo by Jenny Carleo.

Yield contest datasets are a tool that can be used to inform production practices that are strong predictors of high yield. Subsequently, these datasets can be used to identify areas of focus for future agricultural research.

A new *Agronomy Journal* study explored a dataset of 877 entries into the North Carolina Soybean Yield Contest from 2002–2019 to identify the production practices that were the strongest predictors of high soybean yield.

The team found that the three strongest predictors of high soybean yield were maturity group, foliar fungicide use, and planting date. Using a Maturity Group 4 (or earlier) soybean variety was the strongest predictor of high soybean yield. Regardless of soybean maturity group, the next strongest predictor of high soybean yield was foliar fungicide use. When an earlier maturing soybean variety was used, there were also yield benefits associated with planting before mid-May.

Soybean producers can implement several of these production practices as a mechanism to increase soybean yield and profitability in the southeastern USA.

Dig Deeper

Vann, R.A., Drake-Stowe, K., Buol, G.S., & Dunphy, E.J. (2021). Production practices that maximize soybean yield: What we have learned from the North Carolina Soybean Yield Contest. *Agronomy Journal*. **https://doi.org/10.1002/agj2.20728**

More science articles

Back to issue

Back to home

Text © . The authors. CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. Except where otherwise noted, images are subject to copyright. Any reuse without express permission from the copyright owner is prohibited.