

WHAT WE ARE SEEING

Pence Group is studying multiple soybean treatment packages this year. In one of our research plots, we utilized two different planting windows to test and compare the ROI on the treatment packages, some of which we offered in 2023. Other than treatment packages, all other variables were the same within each planting window.

The first thing we studied was actually the cost per variety. Here is how things ranked:

Cost Rankings

1. Merschman Starting Line+ (\$\$\$\$)
2. Merschman Starting Line (\$\$\$)
3. Indigo Biotrinsic+ (\$\$)
4. Untreated (\$)

We then evaluated stands and ranked beginning with the earliest planted entries (planted April 15, 2023) then moving to entries planted later (May 10, 2023).

Early Planted Beans Stand Count Rankings

1. Merschman Starting Line
2. Indigo Biotrinsic+ (-3%)
3. Merschman Starting Line+ (-8%)
4. Untreated Soybeans (-38%)

Later Planted Beans Stand Count Rankings

1. Indigo Biotrinsic+
2. Merschman Starting Line (-2%)
3. Merschman Starting Line+ (-15%)
4. Untreated Soybeans (-26%)

Early vs. Late Planting Stand Count Averages

1. Early Planted Entries
2. Late Planted Entries (-7%)

OBSERVATIONS

Merschman SL & Biotrinsic+ treatments were neck and neck leaders in both planting windows, with a clear 3rd and 4th ranked option in both windows as well.

Soybean treatment seemed to have the highest payoff in the earlier planted entries versus later entries. There was less of a difference between untreated and treated entries in the later planted soybeans, though there was still a drastic falloff between treated and untreated!

If you like to get soybeans in the ground in early spring, Pence Group highly recommends protecting those beans with a seed treatment and our data backs this up! With the crop insurance dates moving up, we expect seed treatment to become a more important factor when making decisions about seed.

Planting timing always seems to be a toss-up. Some years we get early windows that make us question if we should plant or not, and this is shaping up to be a year where those earlier planted beans seem to have an advantage. Our earlier planted entries were able to emerge in early May and were able to take advantage of the scarce rains throughout the month to get off to a stronger start.

We will continue to monitor throughout the year to see how these different treatments and planting windows react to the growing season that mother nature sends our way!



Emerging soybeans at the Pence Group plot located at headquarters in Lafayette, Indiana.