Field Crops Newsletter

Granville and Person County
Mikayla Berryhill

MAY 2025

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Contacts During Maternity Leave:

AS A REMINDER, here are the contacts for field crop help while I am on maternity leave:

For any problems you face in field crops that need troubleshooting, contact the respective neighboring county agent:

PERSON COUNTY:

- **Matt Solomon**
- **mrsolomo@ncsu.edu**
- **336-694-4158**

GRANVILLE COUNTY

- **Matthew Place**
- **matthew_place@ncsu.edu**
- **919-495-2230**

For questions about sample interpretation or if neighboring agents are unavailable (BOTH COUNTIES):

NCDA&CS Regional Agronomist

- **Anna-Beth Williams**
- **anna-beth.williams@ncagr.gov**
- **(336) 338-0435**

Tobacco: Transplanting and Early Season Considerations

Here are some considerations to keep in mind as we move through transplanting season and into early season management of tobacco in the field:

TRANSPLANTING

- Dr. Matthew Vann recommends to clip plants in the greenhouse within 24 hours before transplanting if possible. This will allow your plants to go through the planter easier and can improve plant vigor early in the season
- Set your plants as deep as you can without covering the bud and without reaching the bottom of the furrow. This will improve root development and help avoid ground suckers.
- Consider your field history and current conditions when deciding what to put into your transplant water. If you did not use an insecticide in the week prior to transplanting, consider using a transplant water option. If you are planting into a field with black shank history, use a transplant water fungicide. There are many other considerations to take into account, this is just a few.

EARLY SEASON

- If you have issues in fields with Black Shank, you may consider doing an early season application of fungicides (at first cultivation) to start protection earlier in the season.
- Foliar leaf spot diseases like Target Spot and Frogeye Leaf Spot may be better controlled if a foliar fungicide is applied around 3-4 weeks after

This newsletter is designed to give you up to date information on crops from NC State University and other sources. For more information:

Contact

PERSON COUNTY
304 S Morgan Street
Room 123
Roxboro, NC 27573

PH: 336.599.1195
person.ces.ncsu.edu

GRANVILLE COUNTY
125 Oxford Outer Loop
Oxford, NC 27565

PH: 919.603.1350
granville.ces.ncsu.edu

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Early Season Tobacco Management
Continued…

transplant. Consider this method if you have had a history of this disease in a field or see early signs and are still a while away from layby.

- Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus, which is vectored by thrips, can be managed based on the thrip flight timing and intensity in our area. There is a tool online that can help predict if a thrip spray is needed, and when the spray should occur. You can see more about this tool and access it at https://go.ncsu.edu/tobaccothriptoolinformation.

Tobacco with Frogeye Leaf Spot. *Photo by Mikayla Berryhill*

What is the Best Maturity Group to Plant Behind Wheat?

By: Dr. Rachel Vann, NCSU Soybean Extension Specialist

In recent years, 15-35% of North Carolina soybean acres are planted behind a small grain. This typically results in soybean planting dates from the second week of June through early July. Historically growers have planted a later maturing soybean variety as planting date was delayed. However, with the increasing interest in earlier maturing soybean varieties for the associated yield gains, we have been getting more questions about the optimum maturity group to use in double crop soybean planting in North Carolina.

From 2019-2021, research (https://go.ncsu.edu/plantingdateandmaturityupdate) was conducted across 11 NC locations to determine the best maturity group to use across diverse planting dates. More details about the methods used in this study can be obtained in this scientific publication (https://go.ncsu.edu/soybeanscientificpublication).

If you look at the mid-June planting dates, whether you were in a low or higher yielding environment, the MG4-7 varieties cut within 5 bu/A (Figure 1). Using varieties earlier than a MG4 should be avoided in double crop planting situations because those varieties will not get enough vegetative growth prior to flowering to drive photosynthesis because of the shorter night length needed to trigger flowering in earlier maturing varieties. At mid-July planting dates, the MG5-7 varieties were the highest yielding (Figure 1).

This data indicates that growers have some flexibility in which maturity group is used at later planting dates (MG4-7). So for those asking if using a MG4 variety will provide yield advantages when planting behind wheat; so far our data indicates there is not much of advantage or disadvantage of using an indeterminate MG4 compared to later maturing variety at this planting date. The SoyStage tool (https://soystage.uark.edu) developed by the University of Arkansas is an excellent way to predict when soybeans will reach physiological maturity based on planting date and relative maturity. Growers should be making MG selection behind wheat based on desired harvest dates and needed disease resistance packages, as recent research across the United States (https://go.ncsu.edu/coolbeanresearch) indicates that foliar diseases are more problematic at lower latitudes when planting dates are delayed.

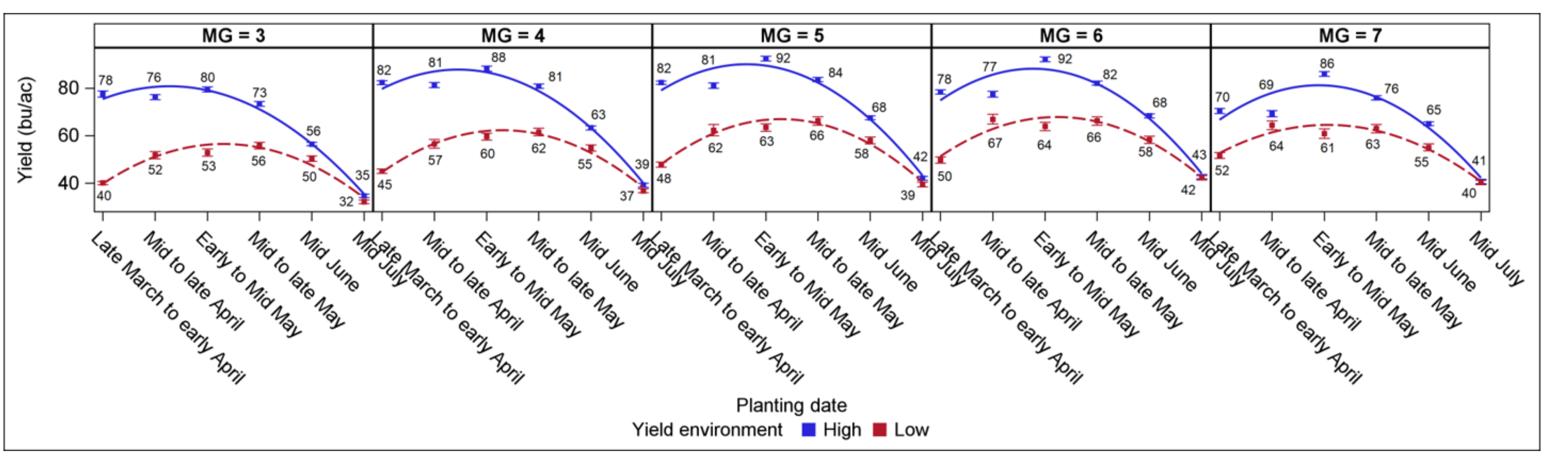

Figure 1. The impact of planting date and maturity group on soybean yield in high (n=5, blue) and low (n=6, red) yield environments across North Carolina from 2019-2021.