

## Crops Bulletin

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*Serving Clay, Buena  
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**Soybean planting rates.** Palle Pederson, ISU Extension soybean specialist has conducted research that suggests that a harvest population of 100,000 plants/acre is adequate for optimum soybean yields. A planting rate of 125,000 to 140,000 seeds per acre is needed to achieve this final stand.

Consider germination of the seed you are planting in 2008. Some soybean seed for 2008 has had germination levels below 90%. Make needed adjustments to seeding rate to account for any reduced seed germination.

Farmers who are not ready to reduce their planting rates by this amount may want to make gradual changes to their planting rates. Check soybean stands at emergence to see what level of soybean stands have been achieved.

**Land rollers.** There have been a few questions on the use of land rollers following soybean planting. The benefits are mostly production related:

- Push corn root balls and small rocks into the soil.
- Helps at harvest – lower cutting height possible with less dirt in the grain.

There may be a small effect on soil to seed contact. However, there has not been any reduction in iron deficiency chlorosis on high pH soils.

**More on fungicide seed treatments.** Fungicide seed treatments that contain Apron (mefenoxam) and Maxim (fludioxonil) are effective against seed borne and soil borne diseases that can cause damping off of soybean. These seed treatments will be active for about 2-3 weeks after planting. These seed treatments are the most useful as insurance against early season stand loss. Palle Pedersen has some research that shows that fungicide seed treatments have increased final plant populations by 4,000 plants per acre. However, the fungicide seed treatments have not increased grain yields in Pedersen's research.

**Insecticide seed treatments.** Palle Pedersen's research has shown a yield increase to insecticide seed treatments – but only where there is significant early season bean leaf beetle feeding. There might be bean leaf beetle feeding on the earliest emerging fields in an area. The over-wintering population of bean leaf beetles is expected to be less this season.

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