

What's Cropping Up?

A NEWSLETTER FOR NEW YORK FIELD CROPS & SOILS

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Most agronomists agree that a ~2.0 inch planting depth is usually optimum for corn establishment in northern latitudes that receive ample rainfall during the spring. A

shallower planting depth, especially less than 1.5 inches, may lead to early-season root lodging associated with shallow nodal root development or corn injury from pre-emergence herbicides. In addition, a planting depth of less than 1.5 inches or less when soil conditions are dry could result in drying out of the seed, thereby reducing emergence or delaying emergence until precipitation alleviates the dry soil conditions. Planting deeper than 2.0 inches

may delay emergence, especially when planting under cool conditions in April or early May. Also, planting deeper than 2.0 inches may reduce emergence because of crusting problems, especially on heavier clay soils, or pest problems, associated with the delayed

How Does Corn Planting Depth Affect Stand Establishment?

Bill Cox, Section of Crop and Soil Sciences,
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emergence.

We conducted a hybrid x planting date x seeding depth study at the Aurora Research Farm in 2013 and 2014. We planted two

corn hybrids on five dates from early April through late May at seeding depths of 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, and 3.0 inches. In addition, we conducted field-scale studies with four corn growers who planted corn at four seeding depths (1.0, 1.5, 2.0, and 2.5 inches). We will share with you the early plant populations taken at the 4th leaf stage (V4), about 3 to 7 weeks after planting (depending upon planting date), in each study. We will eventually run regression

Table 1. Days to emergence, averaged across two corn hybrids, planted on five dates and at five depths at the Aurora Research Farm in Cayuga Co. in 2013 and 2014.

Inches	PLANTING DATE				
	4/10	4/20	5/6	5/19	5/30
	Days to Emergence				
	2013				
1.0	26.25	14.25	12.5	9.25	9
1.5	27.8	15.5	11.5	8	8.75
2.0	28.25	16	10.25	8	8.75
2.5	29*	16.5	10.75	8	8.5
3.0	30.25	16.75	11.25	8	8.25
	2014				
1.0	26.25	20	7	7.75	7.75
1.5	26.5	20.25	7	8	7.25
2.0	26.75	20.5	7	8	7.25
2.5	27	21	7.5	9	7
3.0	27.5	22.25	8	8.75	7

+ Bold numbers indicate the highest values that are greater than the lowest value(s) in the same column (planting depth) but cannot be separated out themselves.

analyses on the data but in this news article we will just observe trends in the data, based on an ANOVA analyses.

A planting date x seeding depth interaction was observed for days to

emergence as well as plant populations at the

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V4 stage for both years in the small plot study at Aurora (Tables 1 and 2). The deeper planting depths, especially the 3.0 planting depth, required 2 to 4 additional days for emergence on the April planting dates in 2013 and 1.25 to 2.25 additional days in 2014. The 1.0 inch depth however, required an additional 1 to 1.75 days for emergence for the May planting dates in 2013 and an additional 0.75 days for the late May planting date in 2014. Obviously, cool conditions delayed emergence at the 3.0 inch depth for the April planting dates and dry soil conditions probably delayed emergence at the 1.0 inch planting depth for May planting dates in 2013 and the late May planting date in 2014.



Growers should check corn seeding depths when they enter fields with different soil types or tillage practices.

Delayed emergence at the 2.0, 2.5 and 3.0 inch depths affected plant populations on the early April planting date in 2013 (Table 2). Compared with the 1.0 and 1.5 inch depths, the 2.0 and 2.5 inch depths had 2500 fewer plants/acre and the

however, did not differ for most other planting dates in both years, except for the late May planting date in 2013 and the mid-May planting date in 2014. On both those planting dates, the 1.0 inch planting depth had ~4000 fewer plants/acre compared with the 2.0 inch planting depth. Overall, the 1.5 to 2.0 inch planting depth mostly had the highest plant populations with the exceptions being the 2.0 inch depth too deep for the early April planting date in 2013 and the 1.5 inch depth being too shallow for the late May planting date in 2013 and mid-May planting date in 2014.

Table 2. Corn plant populations at the 4th leaf stage (V4), averaged across two corn hybrids, planted on five dates at five depths at a seeding rate of 31,800 kernels/acre at the Aurora Research Farm in Cayuga Co. in 2013 and 2014.

Inches	PLANTING DATE				
	4/10	4/20	5/6	5/19	5/30
	Plants/acre				
	2013				
1.0	27,000*	29,000	28,000	29,000	24,500
1.5	27,000	28,000	27,500	28,000	29,000
2.0	24,500	28,500	28,500	28,000	29,000
2.5	24,500	28,500	28,500	27,500	28,000
3.0	21,500	27,500	28,500	26,500	27,000
	2014				
1.0	26,500	26,835	28,500	25,000	27,625
1.5	27,800	27,000	27,750	24,350	28,310
2.0	27,315	28,250	29,500	28,375	29,440
2.5	26,750	27,000	28,500	28,000	27,815
3.0	27,000	26,250	28,200	27,685	27,685

+ Bold numbers indicate the highest values that are greater than the lowest value(s) in the same column (planting depth) but cannot be separated out themselves.

3.0 inch planting depth had 6500 fewer plants/acre. Plant populations among seeding depths,

interaction for days to emergence and plant populations in 2013, yield did not have a planting

date x seeding depth interaction (What's Cropping Up?, vol.24, no.1, 2014, p.7-8). The 1.5 and 2.0 inch seeding depths, however, did have a significant 4% yield advantage when compared with the 2.5 and 3.0 inch seeding depths but yielded the same as the 1.0 inch seeding depth. Wet spring conditions prevailed in 2013 (3.6 inches of May precipitation), however, so soil conditions did not become dry in the top 1.0 inch until late May, which contributed to the similar yield at the 1.0, 1.5, and 2.0 planting depths in 2013. Wet spring conditions prevailed again in 2014 (4.2 inches of precipitation in May), which again negated a reduction in plants/acre on most planting dates. Root lodging did not occur in this study in 2013.

Growers at three of the sites in the field-scale studies had new planters in 2013 so depth control and seed metering were optimum. Nevertheless, plant populations had year x location x seeding depth interactions in the field-scale studies, illustrating that the optimum planting depth depends equally upon soil conditions at and shortly after planting as the actual planting depth itself (Table 3). The Cayuga County site, a well-drained silt loam soil in both years, had ideal conditions at planting (moist at planting and a light shower after planting) in 2013 and plant populations (and yield) did not differ among seeding depths. In 2014, however, dry conditions prevailed for 10 days after planting at the Cayuga Co. site and the 1.0 inch seeding depth had ~ 3000 fewer plants/

acre compared with the other seeding depths. At Livingston County, pre-emergence herbicide injury

Table 3. Corn plant populations at the 4th leaf stage (V4) at four seeding depths planted on four farms from May 7 to May 15 in 2013 and from May 14 to June 2 in 2014.

Inches	CAYUGA	LIVINGSTON	ORLEANS	SENECA
	plants/acre			
	2013			
1.0	35,845	7,045	28,720	25,995
1.5	37,725	32,750*	29,880	24,960
2.0	36,980	30,560	31,090	22,320
2.5	36,333	31,500	30,780	21,000
	2014			
1.0	27,960	28,070	28,720	30,190
1.5	30,775	31,960	28,135	31,080
2.0	31,045	34,240	26,840	29,460
2.5	30,680	34,890	24,495	30,155

+ Bold numbers indicate the highest values that are greater than the lowest value(s) in the same column (planting depth) but cannot be separated out themselves.

resulted in severe damage to stand establishment in 2013 (~2.0 inch rainstorm shortly after planting) greatly reducing plant populations (and yield). In 2014, dry conditions prevailed for 2 weeks after planting and the 1.0 inch depth had more than 6000 fewer plants/acre compared with the 2.0 and 2.5 seeding depths. Obviously, the grower will not plant below the 2.0 inch depth at this site in the future.

Dry conditions also prevailed for 15 days after planting on the silty clay loam soil at the Orleans Co. site in 2013 resulting in ~2000 fewer plants/acre (and 12 bushel/acre lower yield) at the 1.0 inch compared with the 2.0 and 2.5 inch seeding depths. In 2014, a torrential downpour occurred within minutes of planting at Orleans Co. The silty clay loam soil at this site apparently developed significant soil crust upon drying, which contributed to 2000 to 4000 fewer plants/acre at the 2.0 and 2.5 inch depths compared with the 1.0 inch depth. Likewise, in 2013 at the Seneca Co. site, torrential rainstorms (3.0 inches) occurred a few days after

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planting resulting in significant crusting upon drying on this clay loam soil, which contributed to ~2500 to 6000 fewer plants/acre (and 10-15 fewer bushels/acre) at the 2.0 and 2.5 inch depths



Optimum corn seeding depths depends greatly on soil conditions as well as climatic conditions before and after planting.

compared with the 1.5 inch depth. In 2014, dry conditions prevailed after planting but this no-till site had ample moisture in the top inch for similar emergence rates as from the deeper soil depths. Root lodging was not observed at the 1.0 inch depth at any sites in 2013.

In closing, soil conditions play an equal role as seeding depth does for corn stand establishment. Generally, planting depth should be shallower on heavier soils but not always as indicated by the 2.0 and 2.5 inch depths having the greatest plant populations because of dry conditions after planting at Orleans Co. in 2013. The 1.0 inch planting depth is usually too shallow because of dry soil conditions (Orleans Co. in 2013 and Cayuga and Livingston Co. in 2014 or can result in herbicide damage to the shallow-planted seed at Livingston Co. in 2013). On the other hand, torrential rains after planting can reduce plant populations, especially on heavier clay soils (Seneca Co. in 2013 and Orleans Co. in 2014). Overall, the 1.5 inch seeding depth provided the most consistent plant populations in the field-scale studies (but

yields were higher at the 2.0 and 2.5 inch depths at Livingston and Orleans Co. in 2013). Once we get the yield data from 2014 we will summarize our findings. Based on the plant population data, there does not appear to be a “one size fits all optimum seeding depth” and the optimum seeding depth depends equally on soil and weather conditions as actual planting depth.

Late Summer is a Good Time to Control “Deep-Rooted” Perennial Broadleaf Weeds



Russell R. Hahn, Section of Soil and Crop Sciences, Cornell University

All perennial weeds can be troublesome, however “deep-rooted”, creeping perennial broadleaf weeds such as field bindweed, hemp dogbane, horsenettle, and common milkweed are among the most difficult to control. Like annual and biennial weeds, these perennials reproduce by forming seed. In addition, they spread by rhizomes (underground stems). Buds or growing points are found all along these underground stems. Effective control programs must control newly germinated seedlings and minimize the ability of these underground buds to produce new above ground shoots. Between-cropping applications of translocated herbicides during late summer or early fall have proven more effective than other programs for control or suppression of these perennial broadleaf weeds.

Rhizomes are Key to Survival

Rhizomes are the key to the survival of these perennial broadleaf weeds since they serve as a storehouse for food reserves (carbohydrates). It is these food reserves that allow these plants to survive winter. In the spring these creeping perennials draw on these reserves to make new growth. During this period of vegetative growth, carbohydrate movement is mainly upward in the

plants. The depletion of food reserves continues until the plants reach full leaf development and flower bud formation in mid- to late summer



as shown in the accompanying figure. At this time, these plants have the maximum leaf area and the lowest level of carbohydrate reserves that they will have all season. After flowering, they start moving carbohydrates from the leaves into the rhizomes in preparation for winter. Effective chemical control of established patches of these perennial weeds takes advantage of this food storage period to move translocated herbicides down to the underground buds or growing points.

Translocated Herbicides

Translocated herbicides are the key to chemical control of “deep-rooted” perennial broadleaf weeds. Translocation refers to the movement of substances from one place to another, such as the movement of herbicides in plants. Herbicide movement in plants may follow the pathway of sugars formed during photosynthesis and/or the pathway of water that is absorbed by plant roots. Perennial weed control is most dependent on herbicide movement with the manufactured sugars. These sugars move out of the leaves to areas of rapid growth (growing points). Herbicide translocation to the growing points on

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the underground stems is most rapid and most effective when large amounts of sugars are being moved to the rhizomes. This usually occurs after full bloom in late summer and fall. Since 2,4-D, dicamba (Banvel, Clarity, etc.) and glyphosate (Roundup, etc.) are readily translocated from leaves into underground structures of perennial weeds, these herbicides can be effective in controlling or suppressing these weeds.



Common Milkweed

Between-Cropping Applications

Between-cropping herbicide applications are simply those that are made: 1) after harvesting one crop, 2) before killing frost, and 3) before planting the next crop. Situations that meet these requirements include fields where small grains (not seeded to legumes) or certain vegetable crops (peas, early sweet corn, etc.) have recently been harvested, and where the next crop won't be planted until fall (small grains) or until the next spring. These between-cropping situations provide the opportunity to use non-selective herbicides such as glyphosate or to use high rates of 2,4-D or dicamba that cannot be used safely when

crops are present. These herbicides should be applied when the weeds are actively growing. It may be necessary to allow the weeds to recover from damage done during crop harvest. Herbicide labels should be consulted to determine application rates for the targeted perennial broadleaf weeds. In all cases, tillage and other operations should be delayed for 7 or more days following application to allow time for herbicide translocation to the underground buds.

Rotational Crops

Glyphosate is inactivated upon contact with the soil so a variety of crops can be planted following the 7-day waiting period. Since dicamba, the active ingredient in Banvel, Clarity, and numerous other products, has residual soil activity, rotational guidelines must be followed to avoid injuring subsequent crops. Corn, soybeans, and all other crops grown in areas with 30 inches or more of annual rainfall may be planted 120 days after application of up to 4 pints/acre of dicamba products like Banvel and Clarity. Small grains may be planted if the interval between dicamba application and planting is 20 to 30 days (depends on which product is applied) per 1 pint/acre east of the Mississippi River. These waiting periods should exclude days when the ground is frozen. The waiting period for planting winter wheat or barley following late summer dicamba applications can be shortened by applying reduced dicamba rates in tank mixes with glyphosate or 2,4-D.

Between-cropping applications of translocated herbicides provide the best opportunity to suppress or control "deep-rooted" perennial broadleaf weeds, however, growers must act now to take advantage of existing situations or to plan a rotation that will allow such applications next year. Unfortunately, the typical dairy rotation of corn and perennial forages doesn't provide good opportunities for these between-cropping herbicide applications.

How Does Soybean Planting Depth Affect Early Plant Populations?



Bill Cox, Section of Soil and Crop Sciences, Cornell University

Most agronomists agree that growers should plant soybeans at the 1.5 inch depth because the seed is vulnerable to drying out at shallower depths and crusting problems at deeper planting depths, both which result in reduced emergence. We conducted a variety x planting date x seeding depth study at the Aurora Research Farm in 2013 and 2014. We planted two soybean varieties on five dates from late April through mid-June at seeding depths of 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, and 2.5 inches. In addition, we conducted field-scale studies with three soybean growers who planted soybean at the same seeding depths. This news article will report on the trends in the early plant populations taken at the V2 (2nd node) stage, about 2 to 5 weeks after planting (depending upon planting date). Eventually, regression analyses will be conducted on the early plant population and yield data at the conclusion of all the studies.

The 1.0 vs. the 1.5 inch seeding depth emerged 0.25 to 1.25 days earlier on the first three planting dates in 2013 (Table 1). In addition, the 1.0 inch seeding depth had ~2,000 to ~11,000 more plants/acre on all planting dates in 2013 (Table 2). Moist conditions ensued after all planting dates in 2013, which negated drying out of the soybean seed at the 1.0 inch depth leading to more rapid and better early stand establishment. Obvi-

ously, planting soybeans at the 1.0 inch depth is not a problem and may be a benefit during wet



Soybean seeding depth typically, but not always, affects early plant populations

springs. In 2014, however, dry climatic conditions ensued from May 20 until June 10 (0.13 inches of precipitation), which probably contributed to the 0.75 to 1.25 day delayed emergence and ~3,000 to ~25,000 fewer plants/acre at the 1.0 vs. the 1.5 inch depth on the May 19 and June 12 planting

dates (Tables 1 and 2). Clearly, planting soybeans at the 1.0 inch depth is a problem for stand establishment when dry conditions prevail during the late spring.

The 2.5 vs. the 1.5 inch seeding depth generally required an additional day for emergence (although an ad-

Table 1. Days to emergence, averaged across two soybean varieties, planted on five dates and at four depths at the Aurora Research Farm in Cayuga Co. in 2013 and 2014.

Inches	PLANTING DATE				
	4/20	5/7	5/19	5/30	6/13
	Days to Emergence				
	2013				
1.0	16	12.75	8.25	8.75	7
1.5	17.25	13	8.75	8.75	7
2.0	19	12.75	9	9	7.75
2.5	21	13.25	10.25	9.25	8
	2014				
1.0	20	7	7.25	7	8
1.5	20.5	7	6.5	7	7
2.0	21	7	6.75	7	7.5
2.5	21	8	7	8	8

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ditional 3.75 days were required at the late April planting date in 2013). Also, the 2.5 vs. the 1.5 inch seeding depth mostly had >10,000 fewer plants/acre but there were two exceptions where the 2.5 vs. the 1.0 inch depth had ~5,000 to ~10,000 more plants/acre (May 19, 2013 and May 30, 2014). Dry

ing depths (except for the 2.5 inch seeding depth on the April 20 and June 12 planting date in 2013), which apparently were adequate to optimize yields in 2013.

The field-scale studies were planted from May 10 to May 27 in 2013 and from May 24 to June 6 in 2014 (wet May conditions delayed planting at all three farms in 2014). Consequently, soybeans only experienced warm conditions after planting in most of these studies. Nevertheless, soybeans at two farms (Livingston and Tomkins Co.) showed pronounced negative linear responses to seeding depth for early plant populations as in-

ensuing conditions after the May 30 planting date in 2014 probably resulted in dry conditions at the 1.5 inch seeding depth, thereby reducing emergence at that depth.

dicated by ~9,000 to ~17,000 fewer plants/acre at the 2.5 vs. 1.0 inch seeding depth (Table 3). The Livingston Co. study in both years was on a silty clay loam soil so probably crusting or difficulty

Table 2. Early plant populations, averaged across two soybean varieties, planted on five dates at four depths and at a seeding rate of ~165,000 seeds/acre at the Aurora Research Farm in Cayuga Co. in 2013 and 2014.

Inches	PLANTING DATE				
	4/20	5/7	5/19	5/30	6/13
	Plants/acre				
	2013				
1.0	133,700	136,400	145,500	143,300	134,700
1.5	131,100	131,500	134,800	134,700	123,000
2.0	114,000	130,000	145,400	132,700	127,300
2.5	101,800	123,000	140,100	127,300	110,800
	2014				
1.0	136,500	132,845	103,210	137,170	125,850
1.5	129,515	130,180	127,185	136,505	129,185
2.0	131,180	121,525	128,515	140,500	137,170
2.5	118,195	130,180	122,855	145,830	120,525

Despite the differences in early plant populations among the seeding depths at the five planting dates, soybean yields did differ among the four seeding depths on the first four planting dates in 2013 (What's Cropping Up?, vol.24, no.1, 2014, p.1-2). Early plant populations mostly exceeded 120,000 plants/acre for all plant-

Table 3. Early plant populations of soybean planted on three farms at four seeding depths at seeding rates of ~130,000 (Cayuga Co.), ~150,000 (Livingston Co.) and ~175,000 (Tomkins Co.) seeds/acre in 2013 and 2014.

Inches	CAYUGA	LIVINGSTON	TOMPKINS
	plants/acre		
	2013		
1.0	118,710	129,015	136,525
1.5	122,385	125,170	134,165
2.0	114,360	117,860	129,885
2.5	117,485	112,170	127,230
	2014		
1.0	95,705	135,530	155,040
1.5	113,220	136,840	151,050
2.0	110,150	128,850	147,272
2.5	116,045	117,750	138,725

in emerging through a heavier soil from a deeper depth explains the consistent 17,000 fewer plants/acre. The Tompkins Co. study, however, was on a gravelly silt loam soil in both years so crusting problems were probably not the major cause for reduced emergence. Consequently, it is not clear why soybean planted at the 2.5 vs. 1.0 inch depth had ~9,000 fewer plants/acre in 2013 and ~17,000 fewer in 2014. Despite the pronounced negative linear response to seeding depth at Livingston Co. in 2013, seeding depth did not affect yield (yields ranged from 57-59 bushels/acre). Surprisingly, soybean yield showed a negative quadratic response at Cayuga Co. in 2013 (67 and 66 bushels/acre at the 1.0 and 2.5 inch depths, respectively, but only 63-64 bushels/acre at the 1.5 and 2.0 inch depths). Likewise, soybean yield showed a quadratic response (positive) at the Tompkins Co. site in 2013 (yields increased from 59 to 63 bushels/acre as seeding depth increased from the 1.0 to 1.5 inches then decreased to 61 bushels/acre at the deeper depths).

In conclusion, seeding depth affects early plant populations in soybean but the response is not consistent. Apparently, the 1.0 vs. the 1.5 inch seeding depth can result in greater plants/acre if wet conditions ensue after planting. If dry conditions ensue after planting, as at the Aurora Research Farm from May 20 to June 10 or at the Cayuga Co. in 2014 (located 1 mile from the Aurora Research Farm and planted on May 24), the 1.0 seeding depth and maybe the 1.5 inch seeding depth is too shallow, which can result in fewer plants/acre. The data indicates that climatic conditions after planting is equally important as the actual seeding depth in determining optimum seeding depths for soybeans. Unfortunately, climatic conditions in the first 10 days after planting are not predicted with great precision so planting at the 1.5 inch depth appears to be the best compromise.

Preliminary Data Indicate Corn and Wheat Acreage Down but Soybean Acreage Soars in NY in 2014

Bill Cox, Section of Soil and Crop Sciences, Cornell University

Corn acreage for grain in NY, as of June 1, is expected to total 660,000 acres in 2014, a decrease of about 4% from 2013 (690,000 acres). Corn acreage for silage production in NY, as of



Many wheat growers harvest and sell the straw, adding greatly to the overall value of the wheat crop in NY.

June 1, is expected to total 500,000 acres in 2014, down about 2% from 2013 (510,000 acres). Only 58% of the corn in NY was planted by June 1, however, so grain acreage could decrease further because of maturity concerns for June-planted corn, especially on dairy farms. Likewise, the price of grain corn has dropped significantly since June 1, providing more incentive for dairy farmers to switch from grain to silage. Overall, total corn acreage in NY is projected to be 1,160,000 acres in 2014, down by 3.3% (1,200,000 acres in 2013). A further update on the corn acreage will be provided on August 11th by USDA, based on the August 1 survey. Total corn acreage in NY could decrease further because the first half of June was wet in the Southern Tier region of NY, which may have prevented planting some of the remaining 42%, intended acreage.

Wheat acreage in NY in 2014 declined by 20,000 acres or 17% (95,000 acres) compared to 2013 (115,000 acres). This was somewhat surprising

because about 40,000 soybean acres were declared as Prevented Planting in NY in 2013, and it was assumed that a significant number of those acres would be planted to wheat. The projected wheat yield in NY as of July 1 was projected to be 66 bushels/acre, down 2 bushels/acre from the record yields in 2013 (68 bushels/acre). Preliminary testimonies by NY wheat producers indicate average yields so far in 2014 as of July 24th so final yield estimates may decrease a bit.

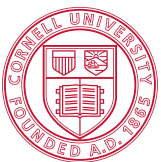
The 2013 June report estimated 320,000 acres of soybeans were expected to be planted in NY but the wet June conditions prevented many acres from being planted; thereby reducing harvested soybean acreage to 278,000 acres. Soybean acreage in

NY in 2014, as of June 1, was expected to increase to 397,000 acres, a stunning 43% increase from the previous year. Only 66% of the intended soybean acreage was planted as of June 15, however, so wet conditions in some regions of NY during the first half of June may have prevented some of these intended acres from being planted in 2014. Soybeans can be successfully planted in NY until about June 25th in the Finger Lakes Region and western NY, and 93% of the crop was reported to be planted as of June 29th. Consequently, it is expected that at least 370,000 of these intended acres were planted, thereby eclipsing the previous soybean acreage record in NY of 315,000 acres in 2012. A further update on soybean acreage will be provided on August 11th by USDA, based on the August 1 survey. If 370,000 acres of soybeans were planted in NY in 2014, this would represent an 8.25 fold increase in soybean acreage over the last 25 years (40,000 acres planted in 1990). Truly, soybean expansion in NY is an unheralded success story of NY agriculture.



Calendar of Events

Aug. 5-7	Empire Farm Days, Seneca Falls, NY
Aug. 12-15	Soil Health Train the Trainer Workshop, Ithaca, NY
Aug. 19	Soil Health Field Day, Le Roy, NY



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