



Northern New York Agricultural Development Program News

PRESS RELEASE: March 31, 2014

Contact: Bill Cox, Cornell University, 607-255-1758

Michael Davis, Cornell Agricultural Experiment Station, 518-963-7492

Rob Robbins, Sackets Harbor, 315-583-5737

Soybean Research Supports Growth of Crop in Northern New York

Northern New York -- Soybean production in Northern NY has increased significantly in the last 5 years: from approximately 5,000 acres in 2007 to approximately 14,000 acres grown in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties in 2012. To support farmer interest in the crop, the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program (NNYADP) funded 2013 soybean variety trials conducted by Cornell University at two sites in the region.

The results of the 2013 soybean trials conducted at Robbins Farms in Jefferson County and at the Miner Institute in Clinton County area posted at www.nnyagdev.org.

Lead researcher William J. Cox, a Cornell University Crop and Soil Sciences professor, says the probability of increased soybean acreage in Northern NY is high for reasons that involve climate and costs.

“It is no longer too cool to produce soybeans in Northern NY. The 2013 growing season was considered to be a cool year, especially from mid-July through September. Nevertheless, the Watertown Airport recorded 2040 growing degree days (GDD) from June 1 through September 30, more than 100 GDD above normal. Despite the light frosts on September 17 and September 24, the Group I soybeans planted on May 14 had attained physiological maturity and did not suffer any yield loss,” Cox points out.

“Farmers can also delay planting soybeans through the first week of June with minimal yield penalty. Many soils in NNY do not dry out until early June and soybeans could be planted at this time with a limited yield penalty. Of equal importance, these wet spring soils hold moisture better than lighter soils in August when conditions become dry,” Cox notes. “More soil water and cooler comparative temperatures in Northern NY in August would result in less moisture stress for soybeans during this critical period of soybean development.”

The cost of soybean meal, which exceeds \$400/ton, also has farmers considering planting and processing their own soybeans.

“The price of soybean meal will probably remain high because of the increased demand for soybeans in China. The lower inputs - minimal tillage, planting, spraying, (unless aphids or diseases arise), and harvesting - for soybeans vs. corn makes it an attractive crop from a labor-management perspective, especially on smaller dairy operations,” Cox says. “The relatively high value of the crop also makes it an ideal candidate as a cash crop.”

Soybean handling facilities that ship soybeans on railroad cars for overseas destinations are now in place in Jefferson County.

Results:

The Group I test at Sackets Harbor averaged 56 bushels/acre compared to 54 bushels/acre in Group II; at Chazy, the Group I varieties averaged 64 bushels/acre and Group II varieties 68 bushels/acre. The early light frosts on September 17 and 24 did not impact Group I at Sackets Harbor, but probably reduced the yield of the Group II varieties there.

Group I Varieties Yield: **S17-B3** from Syngenta had the highest yield at Sackets Harbor and 4th highest of the Group I varieties at Chazy (Tables 2 and 4).

Also, **5N180R2** from Mycogen, which had the highest yield among Group I varieties at Chazy, had the 2nd highest average yield among Group I varieties in Northern NY.

Other above-average varieties that yielded well at both sites in Northern NY include **RPMDB1212** from Doebler's and **S19RY84** from Dyna-Gro.

SG1311 from Seedway, **HS 15A11** from GROWMARK FS, **1805R2** from Channel, and **RPMDB1713** from Doebler's, yielded above-average at Sackets Harbor.

With the exception of **RPMDB1713**, none of these varieties were entered at Chazy. **H15-12R2** from Hubner, which was not entered at Sackets Harbor, had the second highest numerical yield behind **5N180R2** among Group I varieties at Chazy.

Group II Varieties Yield: When averaged across sites, **31RY20** from Dyna-Gro, which had the highest yield at Chazy, and **S22-Y2**, **S24-K2**, and **S22-S1** from Syngenta, had the highest yield in the Group II test.

SG2013 from Seedway, **HS 20A12** from GROWMARK FS, and **2105R2** from Channel, which were not entered at Chazy, had the top three yields in the Group II test at Sackets Harbor.

Likewise, **H20-12R2** from Hubner, which was not entered at Sackets Harbor, had the second highest numerical yield at Chazy.

The results of the NNY soybean variety trials were incorporated into the Recommended Soybean Variety Tables for NNY in our 2014 Cornell Guide for Integrated Field Crop Management.

The complete 2013 Northern New York Soybean Variety Trials report with tables is posted at www.nnyagdev.org.