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Soybeans Are in Need of Additional Nutrition to Help Late Season Development

Cool temperatures which started off the year are continuing across much of the country. For most areas east of the Mississippi River, this has been the coolest July in over 100 years. For soybeans that were already hampered by late plantings and wet conditions, the situation is getting worse.

CCA Joe Dedman explains, **"Soybeans tend to make accommodations for their environment and conditions by shortening the distance between the nodes (branches), which reduces overall height."**

Even plants that were planted on time may still be lagging behind due to the cool weather pattern that has been firmly established since March. These plants are tending to be shorter than normal, even though they are blooming relatively normally.



Both of these situations can be augmented by applications of foliar fertilizers, or plant food. Crop management at this point in the season begins by assessing where your crop is in its development. If it was planted extremely late, or if you are working with double-crop beans, your focus should be growth and a higher-nitrogen fertilizer timed with your herbicide pass. This can help speed development and improve overall size. If your crop is entering bloom stage, then the plant is now focusing its energy into reproduction. According to Dennis Stephens, **"You should concentrate on supplying phosphorous and potassium which are critical for development of the flower and subsequent seed."**

Additionally, if 'normal' conditions should suddenly return it will only increase the stress on this year's crop as beans will enter reproduction in the middle of high temperatures and drought conditions. Soybean plants, without intervention, will respond by aborting blooms or no longer filling pods.

How to Manage Your Soybeans NOW

- **For crops in the third trifoliolate, apply 24-32 ounces per acre of Monty's 8-16-8 in conjunction with your herbicide pass.**
- **For crops entering bloom stage, apply 24-32 ounces per acre of Monty's 2-15-15 (4-15-12 can be used in situations where additional nitrogen is warranted).**

Joe Dedman concluded by emphasizing that providing additional nutrients during any period of stress can help improve plant metabolism and by lining out expectations for farmers who apply Monty's Foliar Plant Food. **"Plant metabolism may result in increased photosynthesis (conversion of sunlight into sugars), cellular development, increased blooms, improved root development, decrease in aborted blooms, and potential for increased pod production, bean development, and ultimately improved yield."**

For additional information on Monty's line of Foliar Plant Food Products, talk to your Monty's dealer or visit www.montysplantfood.com.

For more information call (800) 978-6342

