protection against insects that may reduce stand and/or seedling vigor.

Soybeans that are doublecropped should be planted in narrow rows (< 20 in.) as soon as possible after wheat harvest.

The least planting delay occurs when soybean is planted as early as possible, such as following the earliest possible harvest of wheat and planted into standing or burned wheat stubble. Click here for a summary of and access to results from a doublecrop study conducted in Western Kentucky that confirm this following early harvest of wheat with high seed moisture content.

Burning wheat residue prior to soybean planting is a matter of convenience and is of no agronomic benefit; i.e., there is no advantage from burning wheat residue. The combination of no-till planting of soybeans into non-burned wheat residue is the best management practice from both a soybean yield and environmental perspective according to results from Univ. of Ark. research (Brye et. al., 2004; Cordell and Brye, J. Sust. Agric., 2007).

Conventional recommendations in the midsouthern USA promote a seeding rate to achieve a final stand that is about 10% to 30% higher than that for conventional ESPS plantings (LSU, 2008). Click here for a summary of and access to results from a doublecrop study conducted in Western Kentucky that indicate that a higher seeding rate is beneficial for late-planted soybeans planted following wheat.

Ensure that late-planted soybeans in a doublecrop system have no competition from emerged or emerging weeds at planting and following soybean emergence. Application of preplant, non-selective, burndown herbicides to kill weeds in standing wheat stubble is recommended at time of soybean planting, as is the application of preemergent herbicides (LSU, 2008).

Irrigation where available will ensure maximum emergence, growth, and yield on droughty soils. Production of soybeans after wheat on clayey soils in the midsouthern USA without irrigation likely will not be profitable due to the effects of normal summer drought and the later planting. Again, potential/expected soybean yield and commodity price will determine this.

Frequent scouting of soybeans planted behind wheat is critical to detect late-season insect infestations that will be more prevalent in these later plantings and that will reduce yield if not treated with either a prophylactic or economic threshold application of an insecticide. Click here to access the latest edition of the MSU Insect Control Guide that provides treatment thresholds for late-season insects that affect soybean.

The ESPS and a soybean-wheat doublecropping system are mutually exclusive because of the later planting date for soybeans planted following wheat harvest. The potentially lower yield from soybeans that are grown following wheat must be considered when deciding which system to use.

Composed by Larry G. Heatherly, Updated Jan 2022,
larryh91746@gmail.com