SOYBEAN RESPONSE TO NITROGEN APPLICATIONS

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Soybean yield increases due to N fertilizer have been reported recently, particularly for N applications during the reproductive stages. It is also known that nitrate inhibits nodulation and nodule activity and could potentially reduce yield. Our objective was to evaluate the effect of N fertilizer on soybean yield. Forty-six experiments were conducted with N fertilizer applied at times ranging from planting to late reproductive stages. Some experiments had significant positive or negative responses to some N fertilizer treatments, but overall it appears that N had little effect on soybean yield. As of this writing, we have not identified any factors related to yield response that could be used to make management decisions.

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