

Early Soybean Flowering

By Andy Luke, MU Regional Agronomy Specialist

Soybeans are a photoperiod sensitive crop that begin flowering once day length becomes shorter. In most years, this means that shortly after summer begins on June 21st, the soybeans sense the day length becoming shorter and enter in to the reproductive growth stage by setting blooms. Generally, the soybeans will be in the V7 to V10 growth stage when this occurs. However, with high temperatures and dry conditions like we have had this year, soybeans are beginning to flower much earlier than normal, with some fields flowering while only in the V4 growth stage. The indeterminate soybean varieties we plant in northern Missouri will continue to get taller and set nodes during this growth stage, but early flowering may have an impact on POST applied herbicide applications.

Growers who planted Roundup Ready, Xtend or Liberty Link soybeans need to scout their soybeans and determine their growth stage before applying any of these herbicides. Applications of approved glyphosate and dicamba containing products can be made on Roundup Ready and Xtend soybeans respectively, up until the R2 growth stage, or when soybeans are in full bloom. The herbicide label for Liberty states that it can be sprayed up until the R1 growth stage, which many soybeans are now in. For growers who were not able to make POST applications with these herbicides in time, many traditional herbicides are available and can be sprayed later in the growing season.

If you desire further information on this or any other topic contact Andy Luke, Agronomy Specialist with MU Extension at (660)-425-6434.