

# SOYBEANS: Improvement, Production, and Uses

# **Second Edition**

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## **AGRONOMY**

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# SOYBEANS: Improvement, Production, and Uses

**Second Edition** 

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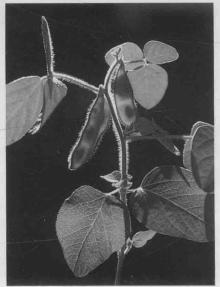
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Top left, soybean flower; top right, developing soybean pods; bottom, raceme of mature soybean pods. Courtesy, Michiel A. Smit, Republic of South Africa.

## **Foreword**

The first edition of Soybeans: Improvement, Production, and Uses was published in 1973, when demand for soybean exceeded supplies. World production was continuing to expand and prices had reached unprecedented highs. Fourteen years later, the U.S. cropland planted to soybean has stabilized at levels somewhat lower than the record high in 1982. Ample world supplies of soybean has resulted from U.S. production and greatly increased production in South America, primarily in Brazil and Argentina.

The high demand for soybean at the time the initial edition of this monograph was being prepared stimulated increased research. This research focused on production practices that would have an immediate effect on increasing soybean supplies. Additional research efforts were directed toward protecting the crop from losses due to pathogens, insects, and weeds. Research efforts also concentrated on improving its productivity (yield) through breeding and genetics. Increased research was also directed toward increasing our knowledge of physiological processes of the plant that would open the way for further improvements in soybean production efficiency and in quality of soybean products.

The increased research effort on soybean rapidly expanded our knowledge of this crop. This edition of the soybean monograph is a reflection of that increased research effort. This edition summarizes our current knowledge on the soybean as a plant, as a crop, and on the utilization of soybean products. It will be a useful reference on the state of our current knowledge and should serve as a basis for continuing

research on this economically important crop plant.

D. N. Moss, president, 1986 American Society of Agronomy J. B. Beard, president, 1986 Crop Science Society of America John Pesek, president, 1986 Soil Science Society of America

# Preface

Soybean, Glycine max (L.) Merr., has become the major source of edible vegetable oils and of high protein feed supplements for livestock in the world. A native of Eastern Asia, the soybean was introduced into the USA where it has become a major agricultural crop and a significant export commodity.

Research on soybean has been in proportion to production of the crop. As demand for soybean increased and area planted to the crop expanded, research support for the crop was also increasing. The increased support for soybean research has resulted in a rapid increase in the breadth and depth of our knowledge about this major crop. The second edition of Soybeans: Improvement, Production, and Uses, presents the current status of our knowledge at a time when this knowledge base is expanding rapidly.

This edition has been organized to reflect those areas where recent research has had the greatest impact. In all chapters, authors have reviewed our knowledge in specific areas but emphasis has been on research

progress during the past 14 yrs.

Chapter 1 documents recent changes in world distribution and production of soybean and the economic and political reasons for those changes. Chapter 2 reports changes in the taxonomic history of the Phaseoleae with respect to the genus *Glycine* and our current knowledge of relationships among species in this genus.

There are two chapters on morphology, one each on vegetative and reproductive morphology. These were included in this edition of the monograph because information on anatomy and morphology are basic to our understanding of all plant processes. These chapters are a consolidation of this information where it will be readily accessible to those

involved in soybean research and technology.

Information on genetics, cytogenetics, and breeding methods is included in chapters 5 through 7. There has been a rapid increase in our knowledge of the genetics of this crop, including the identification of over 200 genes and several linkage groups. The rate of cultivar development has increased rapidly during the past 14 yrs with the research efforts of commercial plant breeders. These changes have had a major impact on cultivar development and on the wide choice of cultivars available to soybean producers.

Various aspects of soybean production are reviewed in chapters 8 through 12. Seed production and technology is an important aspect of soybean production that is covered for the first time in this edition of the monograph. Chapter 9 on crop management reflects the rapid changes

in production practices that have occurred during the past 14 yrs. Edaphic factors, including fertility, liming, tillage practices to minimize soil erosion, and effective water management are reviewed in these chapters of the monograph.

Perhaps our greatest advances in knowledge about the soybean has been in plant metabolism. This is reflected in individual chapters 13, 14, and 16 on N, C, and seed metabolisms. Included with these is chapter 15 on stress physiology since the soybean plant may be subjected to stress

throughout its development.

Chapter 17 documents the recent advances in our knowledge of fungal disease of soybean. Although no new serious fungal diseases of soybean have been identified, many new races of specific pathogens, such as *Phytophthora megasperma* f. sp. *glycinea* have been identified. Locating genes for resistance to these races and incorporating the genes into new cultivars has been an integral part of most soybean improvement programs. Chapter 18 documents information about viral and bacterial diseases that are naturally occurring on soybean.

Nematodes, major pathogens of soybean in the South, have become a significant factor affecting soybean production in the Midwest. Chapter 19 reviews the progressive increase in the area infested by the soybean cyst nematode and strategies to limit losses associated with these path-

ogens.

Losses due to many soybean pests are limited by integrated systems of pest management. This recently developed control strategy is illustrated in chapter 20 on controlling insect pests of soybean.

Chapter 21 is on processing and utilization. This chapter describes in detail how soybean crops are processed, utilized, and require special handling. The final use of the crop will affect research to expand our knowledge of the crop and to improve production efficiency.

Mention of a trade name, proprietary product, or specific equipment does not constitute a guarantee or warranty by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the American Society of Agronomy and does not imply its approval to the exclusion of other products that may be suitable.

My appreciation and gratitude is expressed to the Editorial Committee of this edition of the soybean monograph, Drs. H. R. Boerma, E. J. Kamprath, and L. E. Schrader. They represent different disciplines in soybean research and as members of the Editorial Committee have been fully involved in the development of chapter subjects, selection of authors, and in reviewing completed manuscripts. My appreciation is also extended to the many scientists who assisted with chapter reviews. I am especially grateful to Domenic Fuccillo and the staff at the American Society of Agronomy Headquarters who have been responsible for the myriad of details involved in the final editing of the manuscripts and the printing of this monograph.

James R. Wilcox, editor

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# Conversion Factors for SI and non-SI Units

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# Conversion Factors for SI and non-SI Units

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