THE TIME OF HARVESTING SOYBEANS FOR HAY AND SEED

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While practical experience has taught growers and agronomists much about the proper time to harvest soybeans, it seemed that still more could be learned by a quantitative study of their development during the maturing period, and such a study was undertaken during 1919 to 1922. The only previous study of this kind known to the writer is reported by Stemple.1

METHODS EMPLOYED

Soybeans were grown in rows 28 inches apart on as uniform a tract as could be secured. The plan of the field was as follows:

From this plat eight uniformly distributed 16-foot rows were harvested at intervals of one week, beginning shortly after flowers appeared and continuing until full maturity. Since rows 1 and 2, 3 and 4, and so on, were continuous, there was an opportunity to select the most uniform parts of the rows for each harvest and to leave ample borders at the ends. Rows 1, 12, 21, 32, 41, 52, 61, and 72 were used for the first harvest, rows 3, 14, 23, 34, 43, 54, 63, and 74 for the second, and so on, the outside rows and rows 10, 19, 30, 39, 50, 59, 70, and 79 being left as borders. This plan permitted nine harvests.

The plants when cut were tied in muslin squares and weighed, then opened and dried on the cloths as rapidly as conditions would permit. Artificial heat was not available. In the winter, after the samples had reached a uniformly air dry condition, they were weighed again and those samples in which the beans were large enough

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