



Printed from the:
 MU Agronomy Extension Web Site
<http://www.psu.missouri.edu/soyx>
 for more information contact:
 Bill Wiebold (wieboldw@missouri.edu)

Identifying Soybean Growth Stages - Reproductive

Bill Wiebold

Identifying stage of development is essential for proper diagnosis of soybean pests or other problems and to determine the effect of these stresses on yield. Unfortunately, no standard method of staging soybean development has been agreed upon by all crop advisers. The following method was developed by Iowa State University and is followed by most extension specialists and research scientists. To avoid confusion it is important to include a description of the stage along with letter/numeral designation. When attempting to determine a stage be sure to observe plants throughout the field because variation occurs within any field. A stage occurs for a field or sample when 50% of the plants are at the stage in question.

Soybean development is divided into vegetative (V) and reproductive (R) stages. Subdivisions of the reproductive stages are designated numerically R1 through R8 and described below.

Stage	Description
R1	One flower open at any node on main stem
R2	Open flower at one of the two uppermost nodes on main stem with a fully developed leaf
R3	Pod 3/16 inch long at one of the four uppermost nodes on main stem with a fully developed leaf
R4	Pod 3/4 inch long at one of the four uppermost nodes on main stem with a fully developed leaf
R5	Seed 1/8 inch long in a pod at one of the four uppermost nodes on main stem with a fully developed leaf
R6	Pod containing a green seed that fills pod cavity at one of the four uppermost nodes on main stem with a fully developed leaf
R7	One normal pod on the main stem that has reached its mature color
R8	95% of the pods have reached their mature color
