**GUIDELINES FOR THE VIRGINIA SOYBEAN**

**VARIETY PERFORMANCE TESTS**

The purpose of the Virginia Soybean Variety Evaluation Tests is to provide information on the performance of soybean varieties in the various climatic and soil zones within the state. The wide range of conditions encountered in Virginia provides environments where soybeans in Maturity Groups III to VI can perform well. Please read the following information for details of the upcoming 2024 variety trials.

1. **TEST LOCATIONS:** Variety tests will be conducted on a regional basis by maturity group (III, early IV, late IV, early V, late V and VI) at the following experiment stations.

Full-Season Locations: Will be planted at 140,000 seeds/acre at the first low-risk situation after May 1, 2024.

1. Eastern Shore AREC, Painter, VA
2. Eastern Virginia AREC, Warsaw, VA
3. Southern Piedmont AREC, Blackstone, VA
4. Tidewater AREC, Suffolk, VA

Double-Crop Locations: Will be planted at 220,000 seeds/acre at the first low-risk situation after June 1, 2024.

1. Eastern Virginia AREC, Warsaw, VA
2. Tidewater AREC, Suffolk, VA
3. **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** A variety will be entered in all locations within a cropping system (e.g., full season or double-crop) listed above. Please select an option for each variety entered:
4. Option 1: Entered variety will be planted at all 4 full season study locations (no double crop).
5. Option 2: Entered variety will be planted at all 4 full season study locations AND both double crop study locations.
6. Option 3: Entered variety will be planted at both double crop study locations (no full season).
7. **ENTRIES BY VAES:** The Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station (VAES) reserves the right to purchase seed in the open market to test varieties that are marketed in the area but are not officially entered by the developing agency.
8. **METHODOLOGY:** The varieties will be grown in small plots (approximately 6-8 feet wide x 17-25 feet long) and will be replicated at least three times. Soybean will be harvested as soon as possible after maturity. The center rows will be harvested, leaving a border row on each side of the harvested rows. Plots will be end-trimmed with a minimum harvest row length of 12 to 17 row-feet. Virginia Cooperative Extension agronomic recommendations will be followed on all plots. VAES shall provide all materials to produce the crop.
9. **DATA COLLECTED:** Every effort will be made to plant, harvest, and calculate the results of each entry accepted. However, if a natural calamity occurs causing loss of the crop and data, no financial liability, including return of testing fees, is either expressed or implied. Data to be collected on the performance of each variety will include but is not limited to the following:
10. Yield (bu./ac)
11. Date of maturity (when 95% of pods turned brown)
12. Lodging (scale of 1 to 5)
13. Plant height (measured at R8)
14. Seed quality (scale of 1 to 5)
15. Seed size (weight of 100-seed sample, converted to number of seeds per pound)
16. Purple seed stain (% of 100 seed sample affected with disease)
17. **PUBLICATION:** Results will be published annually. Copies of the publication will be made available to participating companies, extension agents, producers and other interested persons. Results can be viewed on the [Virginia Cooperative Extension](https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/) webpage: <https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu>. Any data from these tests will be considered public information and will be available to participants as early as possible.
18. **SEED REQUIRED:** The commercial company shall furnish the seed needed to plant the tests. **Eight to ten pounds of seed are needed for each entry per cropping system test (approximately 2 lbs. per location).** If one enters a variety in both the full-season and double-crop tests, 16-20 pounds of seed will be required.
19. **SEED TREATMENTS:** Companies are encouraged to pre-treat the seed with a fungicide. We no longer treat seed. Insecticide seed treatments are also allowed. The seed treatments must only use labeled products applied at labeled rates. Please provide a list or MSDS of the active ingredients of all seed treatments used with the shipment.
20. **DEADLINES:** Entry forms are requested to be received by **March 1**, and seed should be received by **April 1** for inclusion in the test. You may email the entry forms to bchris65@vt.edu or carrieo@vt.edu, or use the questionpro survey to submit the variety information (<https://virginiatech.questionpro.com/soybeanvarietytest>).
21. **TESTING FEES:** To help recover some of the direct expenses of the Official Variety Testing program and ensure quality research, fees are requested for each variety entered, scaled to the option selected. Checks should be made payable to **Treasurer, Virginia Tech**. Please use the attached letter template and send it in with your entry form and check. Please refrain from substantially deviating from the wording of this example letter.
	1. Option 1: $1200/Variety
	2. Option 2: $1500/Variety
	3. Option 3: $700/Variety
22. **SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:** Send entry forms, checks, and seed to:

Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center

c/o Chris Buck

6321 Holland Road

Suffolk, Virginia 23437

Thank you very much for your time and support. If you have any questions or cannot meet the deadlines, please contact Chris Buck, Lead Technician - Soybean Agronomy Program at bchris65@vt.edu, or Carrie Ortel, Incoming Soybean Agronomist on April 10, 2024 at carrieo@vt.edu.

*Letterhead of Company*

*Date*

Soybean Agronomy

Tidewater Agricultural Research & Extension Center

6321 Holland Road

Suffolk, VA 23437

Dear Carrie Ortel:

Enclosed please find our check no. in the amount of $ made **payable to Treasurer, Virginia Tech**. These funds are an unrestricted grant to support field testing of the soybean varieties. No deliverables will be expected from this research. Please note that no indirect should be taken from these funds.

Sincerely,

*Name of company giving grant*

**APPLICATION FOR 2024 VIRGINIA SOYBEAN PERFORMANCE TESTS**

This application is due March 1. Seed is due no later than April 1. Please email application to Chris Buck bchris65@vt.edu and Carrie Ortel carrieo@vt.edu; mail to Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center, c/o Chris Buck, 6321 Holland Road, Suffolk, VA 23437. You may duplicate this form if necessary.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Test Option****(1, 2, or 3)** | **Brand** | **Variety** | **Previous Name** | **Herbicide Traits**(RR, RR2X, LL, XF, E3, STS) | **Relative Maturity** | **Seed Treatment** |
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| 20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

\*Maturity Group IV will be split into early (relative maturity 4.5 or earlier) and late (relative maturity 4.6 or later) tests. MG V may or may not be split into early (relative maturity 5.5 or earlier) and late (relative maturity 5.6 or later) tests.

1. Please enter the brand and variety name of each entry. (**Use correct spelling, punctuation, and word spacing. Names will appear in report as listed on this application**.) If the variety designation has changed, please indicate the old designation in parenthesis.
2. Select an option for the tests each variety will be included in.
3. Number of varieties in Option 1: \_\_\_\_\_ x $1200/entry = $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Number of varieties in Option 2: \_\_\_\_\_ x $1500/entry = $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Number of varieties in Option 3: \_\_\_\_\_ x $700/entry = $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **Total amount due: $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Also enter a relative maturity and herbicide resistance using abbreviations listed.
2. Please indicate name and address of individual to whom all correspondence should be directed. (**Please print legibly**)

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Treasurer, Virginia Tech and include a transmittal letter (see attached as example).