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Vegetable Soybean in Canada

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A Relatively New Alternative Crop

- It has the potential as a high valued cash crop with rising demand
- Imported mainly from Asia in packages freshly frozen beans with or without pods
- Labour intensive for harvesting, post-harvest handling for maintain quality and appearance for consumer acceptance

Requirement for Growing Vegetable Soybean in Canada

- Heat unit - Varieties need average of 2,400 - 2,600 heat units or more to mature, less for fresh market
- Select varieties with large beans, and determinant growth
- Proper crop management

Short growing season in Canada - One crop per year

- Growing season started mid to late May until mid September.
- Most of the years, enough heat units to harvest fresh beans in BC, sometimes be able to harvest mature soybeans.

Variety trials

- Grain soybeans - Maple series, selection lines.
- Imported varieties - Japan, Taiwan.
 - Apache, Tohya, Karikachi, Kinshu
 - Blue side, Taisho shiroge, Shirofumi, SE series

Variety trial Results

- Heat units required and bean size (g/100 beans)
- Apache - 2280 (56)
- Tohya - 2260 (185)
- Karikachi - 2590 (210)
- Taisho shiroge - 2350 (187)
- Blue side - 2430 (244)
- Shirofumi - 2500 (260)
- SE series - 2100 - 2500 (144 - 241)

Yield

- We do not have yield data
- Small acreage, no statistics
- Approximately 20 plants per meter in rows 60 cm apart.

Conclusion

- Yes! It is possible to grow vegetable soybean in Canada as an alternative cash crop
- Yes! It is profitable for the farmers
- Yes! More research is needed to improve the cultivation
- Yes! We have soybean breeding program in Canada