



DID YOU KNOW?



Cold spell: a period of cold weather.



Germination: the development of a plant from a seed.



Cotyledon: a seed leaf that provides nutrients for the germinating plant.



Embryo: part of the seed that develops into a plant.



Monocot: a flowering plant with an embryo that has one cotyledon.



Dicot: a flowering plant with an embryo that has two cotyledons.

VARIETIES

Iowa is the top producing state of corn and soybeans due to its climate and the need to raise it for livestock feed. There are different varieties of both corn and soybeans that have been modified to withstand our changing climate. There are also different varieties to improve resistance to weeds and insects. Improved varieties increase the corn and soybean yields harvested. Weeds and insects can be invasive. They can take out an entire field and the farmer can't do anything to fix it. New varieties help reduce the amount of spraying needed.





It is important that the farmers plant their crops at the right time. The soil can't be too cold, hard, wet, or dry. If these conditions persist after planting it may change the germination rate of the field, which means farmers will lose uniformity. Farmers in the midwest will usually plant their corn and soybeans in the spring, from mid-April to mid-May. There is no set date for planting, the farmer watches the weather to figure out when the soil temperature and moisture will be the right conditions for corn and soybeans. The farmer also takes on risk days after they plant. There may still be a cold spell coming. If there is cold weather after they plant, the seed germination rate decreases.

EQUIPMENT

In order to plant corn and soybeans, there are different pieces of equipment required. To plant, we use a tractor that is hooked up to the implement specific to each seed. For corn, the piece of equipment is called a "planter" and for soybeans, it is called a "drill". The farmers are able to adjust the depth and the spacing between the plants on each piece of equipment. Both implements cover the seed back up after it is planted in the ground to ensure it doesn't blow away or is picked up by birds as food. Farmers can buy the corn planter from 2-48 rows, and the drill from 6-48 feet.



FUN FACTS

- In 2017, the entire world produced over 1.25 billion tons of corn.
- Corn is grown on six of the seven continents worldwide.
- Soybeans are one of the top 10 most-produced food commodities in the world.
- Over 82,000 crayons can be made with just one acre of soybeans.

JOKE OF THE DAY

Why wouldn't a farmer laugh at any jokes?

Because all the jokes were very corny!

Brought to you by:



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