Maximize Yield Potential

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Full irrigation treatment at the UNL research farm
(To provide throughout crop development to replace all evapotranspiration losses)
ET-(IR+Rain) deficit was 1.8" on picture date - irrigation was triggered next day

Yield: 82.8 bu/ac
7/25/2004

Deferred irrigation reduced leaf size in the upper canopy, but likely led to
that dry matter ending up in the roots to extend rooting length and depth. Compare with leaves in prior slide. NO wilted leaflets suggests that the
rate of water uptake from the soil is commensurate with leaf transpiration.

Yield: 87.2 bu/ac
7/25/2004

Soybean Irrigation Recommendations:
1. Capture off-season snow and rainfall, to store and conserve it as soil water.
3. Plant a variety with a high yield-to-water response (3 bu/ac per inch).
4. Avoid irrigating during vegetative growth to ensure a deep and wide root system.
5. Skip irrigation during flowering (R1-R2) to minimize disease risks of rust & white mold, and to lessen lodging potential.
6. Always irrigate at pod elongation (R3-R4), the most yield-sensitive R-stage. Delivers max “yield bang” for the “irrigation buck”.
7. Continue irrigation during seed-filling (R5-R6) as August water is more critical for soybean than corn. Don't stop too soon!

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