

## **The Evolution of Soybean Production**

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Soybeans have had a long history in Ontario with significant production being recorded in the mid 1970s. During that time the University of Guelph conducted field trials and released recommendations on how to grow soybeans in Ontario. Between 1971 and 2011 soybean yield in Ontario grew from 25 bu/acre to 43 bu/acre. *Source Stats Canada*. In 2023 the provincial average was 53 bu/ac. In Manitoba, soybeans had been tried in the 1970's and 1980s with limited success, but in the year 2000 successful production in southern Manitoba began. During those early years of the 2000's Manitoba farmers were growing conventional soybeans with success but the main roadblock to increasing production in the province was developing suitable maturing varieties for Manitoba growing conditions.

This presentation by Horst and Dennis will show the evolution of soybean production from those early days to the present. In those early days, production systems were quite straight forward but as acres grew in both regions, growers and industry began to fine tune their production practices and had to development protocols for addressing production issues. New varieties, diseases such as white mould, pest issues such as soybean cyst nematode and now resistant weeds like Waterhemp and Palmer Amaranth. This session will discuss how production has evolved to address these challenges.