



A Conservation Plant Released by The Natural Resources Conservation Service
Elsberry Plant Materials Center, Elsberry, Missouri

'BOBWHITE' wild trailing soybeans

Glycine spp. L.

'Bobwhite' soybean (*Glycine* spp. L.) is a cultivar released in 1975 by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in cooperation (NRCS) in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the University of Missouri.



Figure 1. Production field of Bobwhite wild trailing soybeans at the Elsberry Plant Materials Center.

Description

Bobwhite wild trailing soybean is a strong, tenacious plant that has proven to be ideal for use in wildlife food plots (Fig. 1). This trailing wild soybean vines up to twenty feet in length. It will climb on whatever is available for support or trails on the ground. The seed is small and is slightly elongated, usually about $\frac{1}{8}$ by $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch. Colors are solid, and range from buff to brown, green, and black, with variances from light to dark. The small bean is utilized by most wildlife, including seed-eating songbirds. It is especially attractive to quail, turkey, pheasant, and prairie chickens. The seed is hard and moisture-resistant and remains in good condition through the winter period. This characteristic provides wildlife with a high-protein food source at the beginning of the breeding season. Unlike regular soybeans, in which all the seed matures at the same time, this plant will not only scatter some seed in the fall (around October) but up to one-fourth of the total seed production is often found in the pod in March. Bobwhite is planted in wildlife food plots for quail, turkey, pheasant, prairie chicken, deer, rabbits, songbirds, and groundhogs.

Source

The seed source of Bobwhite came from fifty crosses between original wild-type soybeans from the Yangtze River area in China and domestic soybeans grown in Missouri. Crossed plants were selected for specific traits including vining or climbing growth habit, seed hardness, and seed yield. Plants that met that criterion, including fifty irradiated plants and 124 non-irradiated crosses, were planted at the USDA-NRCS Elsberry Plant Materials Center (PMC). After three years of evaluation, Bobwhite wild-type soybeans were selected based on survival and heritability of the desired traits.

Conservation Uses

The intended use of Bobwhite is for wildlife food plots for quail, turkey, pheasant, prairie chicken, deer, rabbits, songbirds, and groundhogs.

Area of Adaptation and Use

Bobwhite is adapted to Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois (Fig. 2) and performs best on medium-textured soils that are moderately well-drained. It tolerates extended droughts because of its deep root system and withstands short durations of flooding better than domestic soybeans.

Establishment and Management of Conservation Plantings

Prepare a clean, firm, weed-free seedbed by disking, harrowing, and cultipacking or control weeds with a broad-spectrum herbicide. The seedbed should be firm enough to allow seed to be planted approximately one inch deep. Use a planter with depth bands to

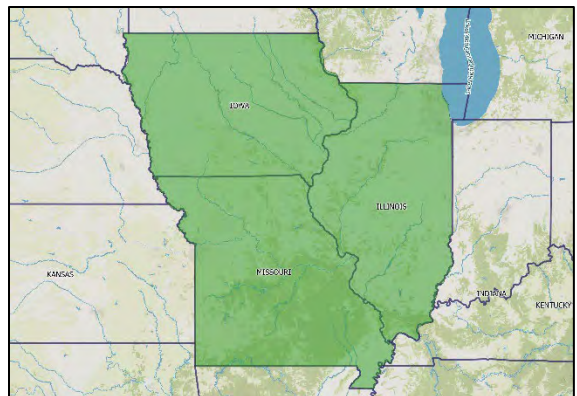


Figure 2. Bobwhite soybeans are adapted for the Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois service area.

ensure a proper seeding depth. Plant seed with a Brillion seeder or a conventional row crop planter for corn or wheat. If seed is broadcast planted, lightly disk and cultipack to ensure a good seed-to-soil contact. A seeding rate of 5 to 6 lb. Pure Live Seed (PLS) per acre is recommended for establishing food plots (solid stand). When planted in a mixture with other warm season grasses and legumes, plant Bobwhite at 3 to 4 PLS lb. per acre and 2 to 3 PLS lb. per acre of grain sorghum, pearl millet, sudex, sudan, sesbania, or other similar plants. There are approximately 18,840 seeds in a pound of Bobwhite wild trailing soybeans.

Ecological Considerations

There have been no reports of insect or disease problems.

Seed and Plant Production

For seed production, plant 8 PLS lb. per acre on 38-inch rows. Plant seed into firm, weed-free seedbed in early spring. Fertilize Bobwhite according to soil test recommendations for domestic soybeans. Bobwhite is indeterminate in seed maturity; therefore, it is critical to choose a time to harvest seed that will maximize yield before shattering. Seed is typically harvested in late October or early November in Elsberry, Missouri. When properly managed, Bobwhite may yield up to 1,100 lb. per acre (Fig. 3).



Figure 3. Bobwhite trailing soybean seed.

Availability

For conservation use: Seed is available from Missouri Native seed in Meadville, Missouri and from the USDA-NRCS Elsberry Plant Materials Center.

For seed or plant increase: Breeder or foundation seed is available for large-scale increase from the USDA-NRCS, Elsberry Plant Materials Center.

For More Information

USDA-NRCS Elsberry Plant Materials Center, 2803 North Hwy 79, Elsberry, Missouri 63343.
Phone # 573-898-2012, Website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plant-materials/mopmc>



Citation

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For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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