

bean seed can be compared to the economy of using disease-free green bean seed, disease-free sweet corn seed, and disease-free cabbage seed, just to mention a few crops, the answer must be yes.

Data are presented which pertain directly to question 2. The data in Figures 1 and 2 clearly point to the fact that soybean seed harvested as soon as mature had much less fungal infection and that germination was high. In order to have the greatest chance of harvesting seed between maturity and harvest without rainfall, seed should mature in late October and early November (Figures 4 and 5). In order to accomplish this, normal planting dates may need to be changed, especially with regard to early cultivars and, in many cases, to mid-season cultivars. The data clearly show that soybeans harvested without rainfall, after maturity, are of high quality. Because soybeans planted at later than the normal planting date tend to yield less, some cultivars, especially the early-maturing ones, should be planted more thickly. Generally speaking, thicker planting, in part, compensates for later planting.

The question, "Can good seed be produced in Florida?", should be answered in a problematic way; that is, will seed producers use the necessary measures needed to produce good seed? Surely, good seed can be produced if growers and seedsmen follow all necessary requisites. Harvest immediately after maturity is a must. Data from other workers (4, 5, 6, 9) show that maintaining a low moisture content during storage is necessary. Preliminary information not reported here indicates that seed properly harvested, dried, and stored at Gainesville germinates excellently and is relatively free of fungal infection. In order to reduce combine damage, seed may be harvested that contains considerably more than 12 percent moisture. If this occurs, it is necessary to immediately artificially dry the beans.

These findings substantiate the preliminary report by Alexander and Hinson (1), 1973, and are in agreement with those published by Wilcox *et al.* (30). Ellis *et al.* (11) published results which show that soybean seed from southern states has a greater degree of infection than northern grown seed. The data presented here do not substantiate those of Ellis *et al.*, in part because the degree of seed infections can vary greatly from year to year depending on rainfall in the different areas. Also, to evaluate quality of soybean seed with any degree of reliability, the seed must be harvested immediately after maturity. If this is not done, it is difficult, if not impossible, to compare seed quality from one area with that from another area.

It has been demonstrated by several workers that some internal seed infection occurs: Crane and Crittenden (7), Ilyas *et al.* (12), Kilpatrick (13), Kilpatrick and Hartwig (14, 15), Lehman (20), Lehman and Wolf (21), Nicholson and Sinclair (24), Wallen and Seaman (28), and Wilcox