

**Procedures and Guidelines
University of Maryland
2026 Soybean Variety Test**

Objective:

To provide growers with agronomic performance data on soybean varieties across all herbicide tolerance which are either currently available to growers or are being considered for sale to growers in Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic region.

1. Entries:

A company may enter as many varieties as desired. Each variety will be categorized based on Maturity Group (MG).

****Continued from 2023, we will no longer accept conventional varieties. We are struggling to manage weed pressure in our plots without the use of more advanced herbicide programs.****

2. Check varieties:

Producers desire the inclusion of popular, commonly grown varieties that serve as check varieties for the tests. A minimum of two varieties meeting these criteria will be included in each maturity group test.

3. Location of Tests:

Location	Full Season	Double Crop
Western Shore	Central Maryland R&E Center- Clarksville, Clarksville, MD	-
	Western Maryland R&E Center, Keedysville, MD	-
Eastern Shore	Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, MD	Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, MD
	Lower Eastern Shore R&E Center- Poplar Hill, Quantico, MD	Lower Eastern Shore R&E Center- Poplar Hill, Quantico, MD

4. Field Plot Design and Management:

Varieties at each location will be arranged in a randomized complete block experimental design with three replications. Each plot will be planted at approximately 25 feet in length and trimmed back to 20 feet with a row spacing of 30". These plots will be planted with a modified John Deere 7200 Max Emerge 2 planter. We will aim for a seeding rate of 140,000 seed per acre for full season and 175,000 seed per acre for double crop. Standard recommendations for fertility and pest management practices will be used at each location. Planting date will be dependent upon weather but generally begins mid-May for full season tests and early July for the double crop tests. A 5 foot swath down the center of each plot (2 rows) will be harvested with an Almaco R1 research plot combine equipped with a H2 Classic GrainGage (Juniper Systems, Logan, UT) and recorded on a Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1 using Mirus Harvest Software (Juniper Systems, Logan, UT).

5. Data Collection:

- Grain moisture at harvest
- Test weight at harvest
- Yield in bushels/acre corrected to 13% moisture

6. Publication of Results:

All data will be published in Agronomy Facts No. 32 that is posted to the University of Maryland Cropping Systems web site:

www.psla.umd.edu/extension/md-crops

The publication of data for the entries does not imply approval or endorsement by the University of Maryland. Any reproduction of the data must give the name, number and date of the Agronomy Facts from which the data originated. The University of Maryland strives to publish the results for the test no later than December 1.

7. Entry Fee:

A fee of **\$840 per entry for MG III and IV and \$800 for MG V** is charged for each variety submitted. This fee covers testing an entry at the locations above. Maturity Group V varieties will only be planted at locations on the Eastern Shore. Discounts based upon the total number of varieties submitted to the test are available. The discounts are 5% for 6 – 10 entries and 10% if the entry total is 11 or more. Every possible effort will be made to plant, harvest, and summarize the results for each entry. However, if unforeseen circumstances or weather conditions cause loss of the crop and data, the University of Maryland will incur no financial liability including the reimbursement of test fees.

Send entry forms via e-mail to both addresses:

nfiorell@umd.edu

lthorne@umd.edu

Upon receipt of your entry form and successful planting, a digital invoice will be emailed back to you with instructions for payment through UMD Financial Services, including credit card payment options. **Please do not send checks for payment**

If you are new to the UMD Variety Trials, a financial representative of your company will need to register your company as a vendor in the UMD system – instructions will be provided by UMD personnel

8. Quantity of Seed Required:

Please submit a **minimum of 15 pounds** per entry. Receiving less than this amount of seed per entry risks the possibility that there will not be enough seed to plant in all trials.

9. Method of Shipping Seed:

All seed should be shipped prepaid to:

Soybean Variety Testing Program
ATTN: Louis Thorne
University of Maryland
4252 Terrapin Trail
1122 Research Greenhouse
College Park, MD 20742

Package tracking information can be forwarded to nfiorell@umd.edu or lthorne@umd.edu to ensure we can retrieve your package if it is not delivered correctly.

10. Closing Dates:

- **March 3, 2026 for submission of entry form**
- **March 10, 2026 for delivery of seed – any seed not received by this date may not be entered into the trials.**