

Production Fact Sheet: Tabasco Zero – Tannin Fababeans

- **SEED EARLY** - Fababeans are quite tolerant to spring frost and early seeding will allow for early harvest. Fababeans yields decline when flowering is pushed later into the year as a result of late seeding. Tabasco is a determinate variety which matures with the shortening days in late August to early September. Early seeding allows the plants to reach full development by this point to maximize yield.
- Tabasco is a medium to large seeded variety so adequate seed depth is required for even germination. 1.5” to 2” is a good starting point under normal moisture conditions.
- A seed rate of 200,000 – 210,000/acre is optimal. Use seed size to establish the rate in lb/acre.
- While most air seeders work well the large seed size can cause flow problems in some (mostly older style) distribution systems with smaller hose sizes. Watch for hoses pinching - often seen at the seed boot.
- Fababeans are tremendous nitrogen fixers. They reliably form nitrogen fixing nodules with only a seed applied inoculant. Residual N levels after fababeans are higher than from any other pulse crop and follow crops show great response. Phosphate can be banded with the seed at rates up to 20 lb/acre if required.
- Emergence and early development is slower than many crops. Good weed control in this period is important. Pre-emergent glyphosate is very effective at reducing weed populations for more effective control with later in crop herbicides. Fall applied Edge will result in the cleanest fields and is effective where lambs quarters and wild buckwheat are a concern. In crop Basagran Forte controls a good spectrum of broadleaf weeds when applied under warm and humid conditions and Odyssey DLX works well for broad spectrum control if weeds are small. Poast Ultra and Assure II are registered for grass control. Other products such as Viper ADV and pre-emergent Authority have been tested and proven effective and we look forward to more registered options in the future.
- The only serious pest threat to fababeans is the lygus bug. Scout through the pod development period to monitor populations. While not often required, control is available with a range of insecticides.
- Unlike a lot of other pulse crops harvest of Tabasco fababeans is easy on equipment. Pod height is 6-8” and regular straight cut headers work fine. Desiccate with Reglone when at least 80% of the pods are brown. Harvest can usually start 8-10 days after application when seed moisture has reached 16%. At this moisture level cooling the beans with air will allow for long term storage.



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