

Non-GMO Soybean Production in Manitoba

Non-GMO (genetically modified organism) soybean production refers to the cultivation of soybeans that have not been genetically modified through techniques such as gene editing or genetic engineering. Non-GMO soybean production is becoming increasingly popular as consumers and food companies seek out ingredients that are not genetically modified. A significant portion of all non-GMO soybeans are exported to Japan where they are used extensively in daily food consumption. Smaller portions are exported to other parts of the world with almost all food grade beans needing to be non-GMO.

To produce non-GMO soybeans, farmers and retailers must follow a strict set of guidelines and protocols to ensure that their crops are not contaminated by genetically modified soybeans and other allergens such as volunteer wheat seed. Non-GMO soybean production can be more labor-intensive but will be similar in cost of production compared to GMO soybean production. Non-GMO seed costs less as there are no trait fees. However, a more expensive herbicide program including a pre-emergent application is needed since group 2 chemistry in-season may not offer all the weed control you need. These two factors in combination come out to roughly the same total input cost. In recent years, the demand for non-GMO soybeans has increased significantly, and there are now attractive premiums when selling this commodity.

GMO Soybeans			Non-GMO Soybeans		
	Product	Cost / acre		Product	Cost / acre
Seed	1.28 units / acre	\$76.80	Seed	1.28 units / acre	\$57.60
Herbicide	RT540 0.67 X2	\$16.75	Pre-Emerge Herbicide	Authority Supreme	\$33.00
			Herbicide	Solo Ultra	\$20.00
	Total	\$93.55		Total	\$110.60
Yield		40	Yield		40
Price / Bushel		\$16.96	Price / Bushel	\$2.50 Premium	\$19.46
Revenue		\$678.40	Revenue		\$778.40
Net Revenue		\$491.30	Net Revenue		\$557.20

Prices above were calculated in January 2023.

Currently in Manitoba Prograin and Sevita are offering contracts for non-GMO soybean production. Talk to one of your local Shur-Gro Farm Services staff today if this program sounds interesting to you!



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Courtesy of our Niverville Branch!



Corey Blad
Assistant Manager/
Sales Agronomist