

Soybeans

What is a soybean?

The bushy, green soybean plant is a legume related to clover, peas and alfalfa. Soybeans are typically planted in the late spring and when they flower in the summer they can produce up to 80 pods. Each pod contains 2-4 pea-sized beans, which are high in protein and oil.

Fast Facts

- One acre of soybeans can make **82,368** crayons.
- Wisconsin ranks **14th** in soybean production among U.S. states.
- Farmers began growing soybeans **5,000** years ago in China.
- Today, farmers grow soybeans in more than **30** states.

Soybean Products

Human Consumption

Noodles, peanut butter, candy and snack foods, breads, salad dressing, baby food and more.

Animal Consumption

Fish food, bee foods, pet foods, cattle, swine, poultry feeds and more.

Biodiesel

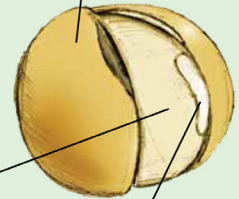
Biodiesel is a fuel for diesel trucks, cars, buses and tractors. Biodiesel is a clean burning fuel produced from renewable resources in the United States, including soybeans. Biodiesel is building demand and adding value for soybeans, creating green jobs and decreasing the use of foreign oil.

JUST WHAT ARE SOYBEANS?

Soybeans are small round seeds, each with a tiny, brown spot. They are made up of three basic parts. Make your own soybean book with the Bean Book activity found at www.agintheclassroom.org.

Hilum – brown spot.

Seed Coat – outside cover that protects the seed.



Cotyledon – first leaf or pair of leaves within the embryo. A part of the seed that stores food.

Embryo – part of a seed that develops into a new plant, including the stem, leaves and roots.