

Title Effects of harvest epoch and seed coat thickness on the viability and vigor of soybean seeds.
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Abstract

The seed viability and vigour of soyabean cultivars (EMBRAPA-64, EMBRAPA-4, BR-16, FT-Abyara and IAC-100) and lines (BRD-9527, BRD-9651, BRD-9507 and BRD-9502) with various seed coat colour and seed coat thickness, harvested at stage R8 [harvest maturity] and 14 days later, were determined. After harvest, seed coat thickness and water uptake were measured. Seed viability was evaluated through germination and tetrazolium tests, and seed vigour was evaluated through emergence in sand, and through tetrazolium and accelerated aging tests. BRD-9561 (black coat), BRD-9527 (brown coat), BRD-9507 and BRD-9502 (yellow) had thicker teguments; however, this characteristic per se does not guarantee greater plant vigour and viability. Delaying harvest resulted in low seed vigour and viability, and increased the imbibition of water.