

PRESS RELEASE

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Columbia Grain™
CULTIVATING GROWTH™

Spring Planting Update: Expect Increased Acreage of Soybeans and Corn Driving Demand over Pulses and Wheat

Columbia Grain International forecasts spring planting trends and gives agronomy recommendations for how farmers can prepare themselves for successful crops.

PORTLAND, OR (JANUARY 2021) — According to *Feed & Grain*, survey results for 2021/22 acreage and soybean plantings were forecast up 5M acres to 87.9M. Sky-high export demand from China and other international markets led soybean future prices to hit two year highs in late 2020. The ratio of next crop 2021 soybeans to corn favors soybeans plantings this spring by the largest degree in three years¹. [Columbia Grain International](#) (CGI), a global leader in the origination, processing, logistics, and distribution of high-quality bulk grains, pulses, edible beans, oilseeds, and organics for the Pacific Northwest, believes that soybeans will lead the market and command the most acres this spring, with all other crops catching up.

“Soybeans are going to steal acres from corn, corn from wheat, wheat from pulses, and we will experience a trickle-down effect with tight acreage for all commodities,” says Columbia Grain International’s VP of the Pulse Division, Tony Roelofs. “We saw a similar occurrence in 2008 during the ethanol boom, when corn was \$7 a bushel, and corn was planted in places it had never been planted before. We forecast the same with soybean planting in spring 2021, regions that aren’t traditional soybean growing areas will see an uptick in acres planted.”

CGI predicts that CRP ground, not farmed on before, will now be used to fulfill crop demand, whereas in the past it would have been used for grass and feed. Summer fallow cropland will also be put to use for marginal ground and will push production.

When it comes to the economics of what is best to plant, soybeans and corn are experiencing high commodity pricing, and could impact the dry pea and lentil business as farmers shift to grow these other commodities. However, with the driest planting conditions across North and South America in years, pulses still remain a good option as they require very little moisture, withstand drought conditions quite well, and have good potential returns. They also continue to experience good global demand. CGI has fulfilled lentil

¹ Feed & Grain: U.S. May Plant More Beans in 2021/2022. <https://www.feedandgrain.com/blog/ag-prices-end-the-overnight-session-lower-after-earlier-gains>



shipments for U.S. government programs, food aid programs, and World Food Programme, as they try to battle hunger, both domestically and in third world countries.

Agronomy Tips

The Columbia Grain International Agronomy Division recommends reviewing any disease issues in your fields prior to deciding what to plant in the spring. Questions including: what has been my crop rotation? Has it been long enough since I've planted pulses, canola, or wheat to have a gap in the disease cycles? For instance, canola crops need to have at least three to four years between crops to help prevent Black Leg Diseases. Then, it's a matter of which diseases do I want my seed treatments to help the crop resist in order to get a new crop off to a great start.

"We know that Fusarium shows up more in dry conditions, and Rhizoctonia shows up more in fields with heavy residue. We see Pythium during very wet years," said Columbia Grain International Seed Manager, Paul Porter. "Did I have a pea leaf weevil problem in the field the last time we grew peas?"

CGI recommends starting the season off strong with a seed treat package to obtain optimal root health. They prefer Syngenta's LSV/Legume Custom Blend with 1.28 oz. per hundred weight of Cruiser 5FS for pulse crops. This seed treatment helps plants develop strong roots, even with the presence of Fusarium and Rhizoctonia disease. The Cruiser 1.28 oz. per hundred weight also allows for 30 to 45 days of wire worm and pea leaf weevil suppression and enhances plant vigor.

"A good seed treatment program can ensure a strong return on investment," says Porter.

About Columbia Grain International

Since 1978, Columbia Grain International™ (CGI) has been Cultivating Growth™ as a global leader in the origination, processing, logistics, and distribution of high-quality bulk grains, pulses, edible beans, oilseeds and organics for U.S. domestic and worldwide export markets. Headquartered in Portland, OR, CGI's reliable supply chain spans the western region of the US, ensuring abundant ingredients for all its partners, thanks to their trusted relationships with their farmers throughout the fertile croplands of Washington, Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota, well known for its high-quality wheat, feed grains, canola, and pulses. CGI is an owner of Montana Specialty Mills, who operates an organic and non-GMO oilseed crushing facility in Great Falls, Montana, a mustard seed facility in Conrad, Montana, and most recently Montana Craft Malt — providing specialty malt barley from Montana farmers to the craft brewing world. Today, they are vertically integrated, operating assets including grain elevators, processing plants, and agronomy centers to support their farmers, which stretch the northern tier of the United States. With multiple touchpoints across the food supply chain, CGI provides trusted solutions and cultivates high-quality ingredients from their local farmers for a farm to table philosophy that nourishes the world, safely.

For more information, visit [Columbia Grain International](https://www.christieand.co) online. For media inquiries, contact Christina Madrid at Christie & Co, www.christieand.co, by phone (818) 621-1897 and/or email christina@christieand.co.

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