

As a catch crop for planting in corn or late in the season after any other crop, cowpeas are decidedly more valuable than soybeans. The energy of the latter is expended in producing seed and the growth is likely to be small. This is not true of cowpeas to an equal extent.

For sowing broadcast on weedy land cowpeas are preferable to soybeans because they smother weeds much better. On fairly clean land, however, soybeans will give as good results sown broadcast or drilled solid as cowpeas. Since cowpeas are generally sown broadcast or drilled solid, somewhat less care in the preparation of the seed bed is necessary than for soybeans. The latter as a rule are cultivated and a smooth seed bed is required so that close cultivation may be given without covering or injuring the young plants. The young cowpea plants have greater ability to push thru a crusted surface than soybean plants and where a hard rain occurs after planting, cowpeas are likely to give the better stand. Soybean seed does not rot in cold weather nearly as readily as cowpea seed, however, and where the weather is cold and wet at planting time, soybeans will give a better stand. The seed of some varieties of soybean will, in fact, lie in the ground all winter and germinate in the spring. Cowpea seed exposed in this way quickly rots.

The cost of seeding is usually about the same for both crops. In recent years soybean seed has cost more per bushel but much less seed is required per acre as a rule because of the practice of planting in rows. Where both are planted broadcast about the same amount of seed is required, unless some of the small-seeded sorts of beans are used, such as Peking or Lexington.

VARIETIES.

Several hundred varieties of soybeans have been introduced into the United States by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Most of them have come from China and Japan, where the soybean has been grown for centuries, and where it is one of the most important crops. In addition, seedsmen and experi-