

# Racey Soys!

**Grade Level: 4**

**Approximate Length of Activity: 15-20 Minutes**

## Objectives

1. Plant seeds
2. Observe growth
3. Record observations

**Michigan Content Standards: (Science) S.I.P.E. 1:** S.IP.04.11; S.IP.04.12; S.IP.04.13; S.IP.04.14; S.IP.04.15; S.IP.04.16; **S.IA.E. 1:** S.IA.04.15; **S.RS.E. 1:** S.RS.04.18; S.RS.04.19

## Introduction

Over 3,000 years ago, soybeans were cultivated by the Chinese. At that time the bean had only small seeds and grew flat on the ground. Farmers selected seeds with larger fruits (the seed) and those that grew more upright. Over a period of years, the once wild soybean was domesticated into a busy plant with easy to see seeds.

Soybeans are an annual plant, completing their life cycle within one year. They are planted in the spring and harvested in the fall. When they are harvested, the leaves and stalks are brown. The bean is the “gold” of the plant and is presently the major plant part sought by farmers.

## Materials Needed

- Soybean seeds
- Peat pellets
- Metric rulers
- Lab sheet, Racey Beans
- Graph sheet
- Cups

## Activity Outline

1. Give each group of two students a peat pellet.
2. Soak the peat pellets in a cup with water until they swell.
3. Using a pencil, plant the bean seed about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in each peat pot.
4. Student pairs should record their observations on the Racey Beans lab sheet
5. Use the lab sheet to create a chart of plant growth.
6. Market graphs of the plant growth.
7. Save the plants for upcoming activities.

*Note: Plant 10 extra beans at this time in case some plants do not grow well, or for use with other lessons.*

## Related Activities

1. Have students' plant soybeans in different soil types. Observe what soils is best for maximum growth.
2. Alter one soybean plant with a fertilizer. Observe what happens to the plant.
3. The lesson "Where Would We be Without Seeds?" located in the science section of this curriculum guide.
4. The lesson "Food and Fiber Products" located in the science section of this curriculum guide.
5. The lesson "Most 'Bean' ificial" located in the social studies section of this curriculum guide.

## Acknowledgment

This lesson was provided courtesy of the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee. Additional teaching materials are available through the "Soybeans Go To School" curriculum. For more information or materials, visit [www.michigansoybean.org](http://www.michigansoybean.org) or email [soyinfo@michigansoybean.org](mailto:soyinfo@michigansoybean.org).

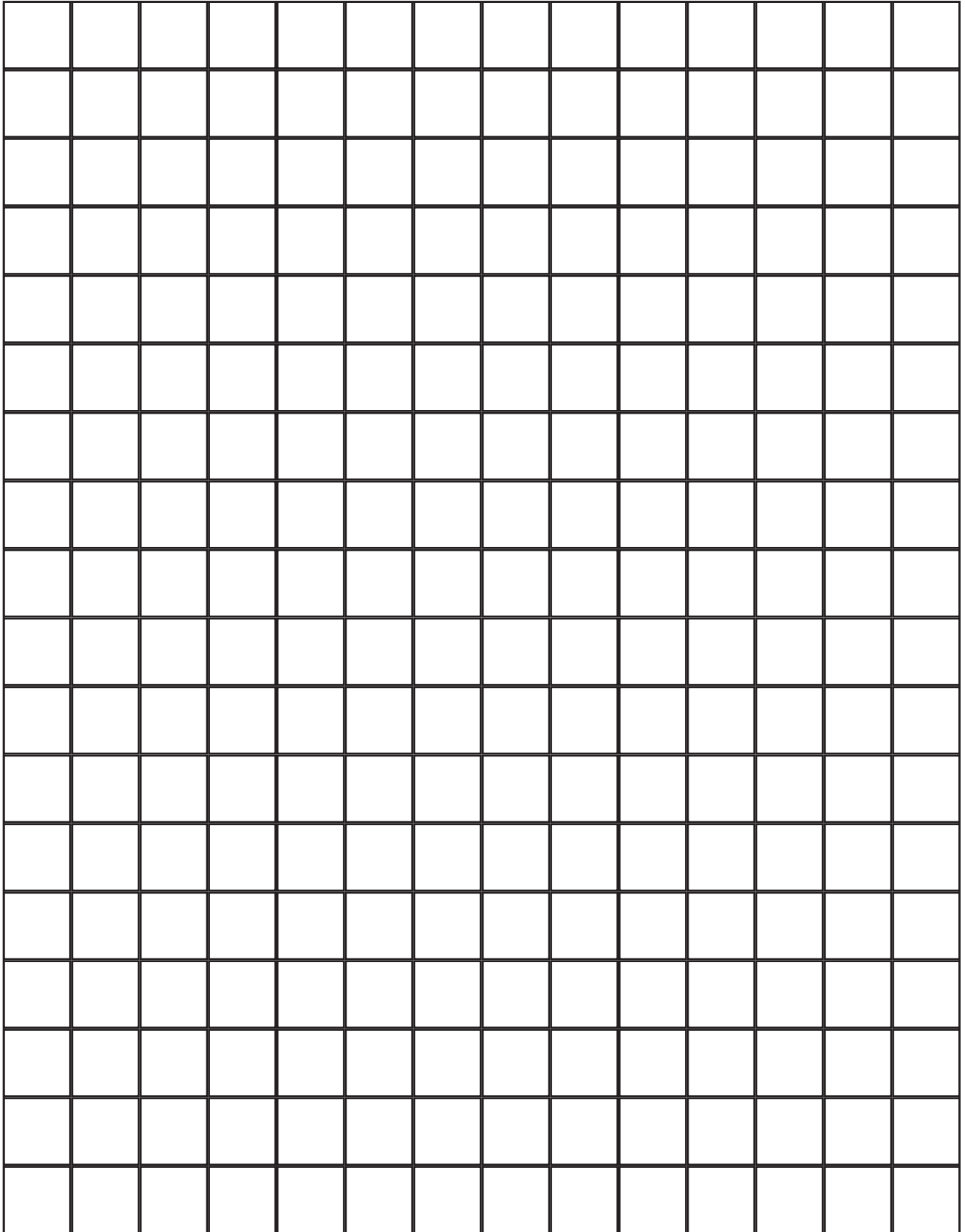
Michigan Soybean farmers' through their Soybean Checkoff.

# Racey Beans

Date	Height of plant (cm)	Drawing of Plant

# Graph the height of your plant for each day

Number of Days



Number of cm tall