Why are we as growers, scientists, extension personnel and company and/or university people satisfied with our often meager crop yields? Is there nothing that can be done to ameliorate that status? Is it a reality that crop yields can be poor because of something as common as the effects of weather? And if that is the case, can one do anything at all about the weather affecting crop yield?

A preliminary study was done with soybean production in southern Texas this past autumn (2011) and into the winter (2012), during part of the annual season when soybean production is not considered viable but rather unconventional and most likely even too risky. The “weather” is assumed not to be favorable; there are too many cool days or cold nights. There are too many rapid swings (quick changes) in temperature. There can be hot days and cold days and windy conditions and very wet conditions. How can the soybean plant possibly survive these “perceived” impediments to productivity?

Two approaches to soybean productivity were taken to evaluate these “weather” or abiotic factors, both of which depend on what over the years we have come to understand as a “more effective” plant hormone balance during the reproductive stage of crop growth. In both cases crop productivity was improved over the well-delivered recommended fertility approach.