

PERFORMANCE OF COMMERCIAL CORN HYBRIDS IN ILLINOIS, 2015

TEST PROGRAM

Selection of entries. Each year, producers of corn hybrids in Illinois and surrounding states are invited to enter hybrids in the Illinois performance trials. Financing is provided thru entry fees. Entrants are required to enter their corn hybrids regionally at a fee of \$270 for each corn hybrid entered in a region or \$90 per hybrid for the corn following corn tests. Most of these hybrids are commercially available, although a few experimental hybrids are also entered.

Number and location of tests. In 2015, hybrid corn entrants were required to enter hybrid(s) in at least one of 4 regions each consisting of 3 locations with a total of 12 locations in the state (see map). These sites represent the major soil and climatic areas of the state.

Hybrids. There were 224 corn hybrids from 30 companies tested in 2015.

Field-plot design. Three replications of an alpha lattice design or randomized complete block were used to give each corn hybrid an equal chance to show its merits.

Planting methods. All trials were planted by a modern four row planter modified for small plot work. A soil insecticide (Force) was applied in furrow at planting for all corn trials. Corn plots were planted to stand and later counted to confirm population. Each plot was four rows wide and 23 feet long. The center two rows of each plot were harvested to determine yields.

Fertilization. All test fields were at a high level of fertility. Additional fertilizer was plowed down or side dressed as needed to ensure top yields.

Method of harvest. All corn plots were harvested with a custom-built, self-propelled, corn plot combine. Grain collected from each plot was weighed, and tested for moisture content. An electronic moisture monitor was used in the combine for all moisture readings. No allowance was made for grain that might have been lost in harvest.

PERFORMANCE DATA

Grain yield. Grain weight and moisture was converted to bushels per acre of No. 2 shelled corn (15.5 percent moisture).

Moisture content. Occasionally, hybrids too late in maturity for a given area are entered in these tests. These hybrids are often high in yield, but their moisture content may make them poor choices for farm use unless proper drying or storage facilities are available.

Erect plants. The number of erect plants in each plot of a hybrid was determined at harvest time. Any plant leaning at an angle of more than 45 degrees or broken below the ear was considered lodged. Plants broken above the ear were considered erect.

Population. Corn plots were planted to population and later counted to confirm population. Stand differences may be caused by failure to germinate or by damage from diseases, insects, cultivation, or rodents.

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SUGGESTIONS FOR COMPARING HYBRIDS

It is impossible to measure performance exactly in any test of plant material. Harvesting efficiency may vary, soils may not be uniform, and many other conditions may produce variability. Results of repeated tests, like those reported here, are more reliable than those of a single-year or a single-strip test. When one hybrid consistently out yields another at several test locations and over several years of testing, the chances are good that this difference is real and should be a consideration in choosing a hybrid. When comparing yields, however, grain moisture content, percentage of erect plants, and plant population must also be considered.

A number of statistical tests are available for comparing hybrids within a single trial. One of these tests, the least significant difference (L.S.D.), when used in the manner suggested by Carmer and Swanson¹ is quite simple to apply and is more appropriate than most other tests. When two hybrids are compared and the difference between them is greater than the tabulated L.S.D. value, the hybrids are judged "significantly different."

The L.S.D. is a number expressed in bushels per acre and presented following the average yield for each location. An L.S.D. level of 25% is shown. Find the highest yielding hybrid within the regional table or single location table of interest, subtract the 25% L.S.D. value from the highest yielding hybrid, every hybrid with a greater yield than the resulting number is 'statistically the same' as the highest yielding hybrid. Consider the merits of the hybrids in this group when making hybrid selections.

In a study of the frequencies of occurrence of three types of statistical errors and their relative seriousness, Carmer² found strong arguments for an optimal significance level in the range $\alpha = 0.20$ to 0.40 , where α is the Type I statistical error rate for comparisons between means that are really equal. Herein, a value of $\alpha = 0.25$ is used in computing the L.S.D. 25- percent level shown in the tables.

To make the best use of the information presented in this circular and to avoid any misunderstanding or misrepresentation of it, the reader should consider an additional caution about comparing hybrids. Readers who compare hybrids in different trials should be extremely careful, because no statistical tests are presented for that purpose. Readers should note that the difference between a single hybrid's performance at one location and its performance at another is caused primarily by environmental effects and random variability. Furthermore, the difference between the performance of hybrid A in one trial and that of hybrid B in another is the result not only of environmental effects and random variability, but of genetic effects as well.

¹Carmer, S.G. and M.R. Swanson. "An Evaluation of Ten Pairwise Multiple Comparison Procedures by Monte Carlo Methods." Journal of American Statistical Association 68:66-74. 1973.

²Carmer, S.G. "Optimal Significance Levels for Application of the Least Significant Difference in Crop Performance Trials." Crop Science 16:95-99, 1976.

2015 TEST FIELDS

Mt. Morris

Location: Nelson farm, Ogle county, north of Mt. Morris, north central Illinois.
Cooperator: Rick Nelson.
Soil type: Muscatine silt loam.
Planting date: April 23rd.
Harvest date: October 12th.
Nitrogen: 182 lbs. as UAN
Herbicides: PRE- Bicep II Magnum; POST- Impact.
Tillage: Spring- field cultivation.

DeKalb

Location: Northern Illinois Research and Edu. Center, DeKalb County, southwest of DeKalb.
Cooperators: Greg Steckel, Superintendent.
Soil type: Flanagan silty clay loam.
Planting date: May 2nd.
Harvest date: October 13th.
Nitrogen (Conv.): 200 lbs. as UAN spring.
Nitrogen (CFC): 220 lbs. as UAN spring.
Herbicides: (Conv) PRE- Verdict, POST- Impact.
Tillage: Spring- field cultivator, Fall – chisel.

Erie

Location: Slaymaker farm, Whiteside county, west of Rock Falls, northwestern Illinois.
Soil Type: Beaucoup silty clay loam.
Cooperator: Robert Slaymaker.
Planting Date: April 23rd.
Harvest Date: October 3rd.
Nitrogen: 200 lbs. as NH3 fall.
Herbicides: PPI- Sure Start 2, Infantry 4L; POST- Impact.
Tillage: Fall- disk-ripper; Spring- field cultivate.

Monmouth

Location: University of Illinois, Northwestern Illinois Agricultural Research and Demonstration Center, Warren County, northwest of Monmouth.
Cooperators: Brian Mansfield; research director, Martin Johnson; farm foreman.
Soil type: Sable silty clay loam.
Planting date: April 15th.
Harvest date: September 26th.
Nitrogen (Conv): 170 lbs. as 28% spring.
Nitrogen (CFC): 210 lbs. as 28% spring.
Herbicides: PRE- Harness Extra.
Post- Calisto, Resource, Atrazine.
Tillage: Fall- disk ripper; Spring- field cultivate.

New Berlin

Location: Bennett Farm, Sangamon county, north of New Berlin, central Illinois.
Cooperators: Leahy Bennett.
Soil type: Sable silt loam.
Planting date: April 14th.
Harvest date: September 23rd.
Nitrogen: 210 lbs, 180 lbs as NH3 (spring), 30 lbs as 32% (spring).
Herbicides: PPI- Parallel Plus; POST- Impact.
Fungicide: Stratego Yield (7/07).
Tillage: Fall- V rip; Spring- vertical finisher.

Perry

Location: University of Illinois, Orr Agricultural Research and Demonstration Center, Pike county, west of Perry, west-central Illinois.
Cooperator: Mike Vose; farm foreman.
Soil type: Herrick silt loam.
Planting date: April 15th.
Harvest date: September 30th.
Nitrogen: 190 lbs as NH3 (spring).
Herbicides: PPI- Lumax EZ.
Tillage: Fall- Rip, Spring- field cultivate.

Dwight

Location: Hoffman farm, Grundy county, north of Dwight, northeastern Illinois.
Cooperator: Allen Hoffman.
Soil type: Reddick silty clay loam.
Planting date: April 16th.
Harvest date: September 29th.
Nitrogen: 135 lbs. as anhydrous (fall), 50 lbs. side dress as UAN.
Herbicides: PPI- Surestart, Atrazine;
POST- Impact.
Tillage: Strip Till (fall).

Goodfield

Location: Wurmnest farm, Woodford county, north of Goodfield, central Illinois.
Cooperator: Mike Wurmnest.
Soil Type: Ipava silt loam.
Planting date: April 17th.
Harvest date: September 27th.
Nitrogen: 210 lbs., 70 lbs. 28% (spring), 40 lbs. as 28%, and 70 lbs. side dress.
Herbicide: Pre- Lumax; POST- Impact.
Tillage: Fall- chisel . Spring- field cultivator.

Urbana

Location: University of Illinois, Crop Sciences Research and Education Center, Champaign county, Urbana, east-central Illinois.
Cooperators: Robert Dunker; superintendent, Jeff Warren; farm foreman.
Soil type: Flanagan silt loam.
Planting date: April 17th conv., April 24th CFC.
Harvest date: September 28th.
Nitrogen: (Conv)- 210 lbs. as 28% PPI, (CFC)- 210 lbs. as 28% side dress.
Herbicides: (Conv) PPI- Harness Xtra; POST- Impact. (CFC) POST- Impact.
Tillage: Spring- soil finisher, Fall- chisel plow.

St. Peter

Location: Magnus Farm, Fayette county, west of St. Peter, south-central Illinois.
Cooperators: Torrey Magnus.
Soil type: Bluford silt loam.
Planting date: May 1st.
Harvest date: October 6th.
Nitrogen: 180 lbs. as anhydrous (spring).
Herbicides: PPI- Lexar.
Tillage: Spring- Disk, Field cultivate.

Belleville

Location: Southern Illinois University Research Center, east of Belleville, St. Clair county.
Cooperators: Ron Krausz; field manager.
Soil type: Ebbert silt loam.
Planting date: May 5th.
Harvest date: October 2nd.
Nitrogen: 150 lbs. as Urea (spring).
Herbicides: PPI- Lumax EZ, Aatrex 4L.
Tillage : Fall-rip, Spring- field cultivator.

Elkville

Location: Funk farm, Jackson county, Elkville, north of Carbondale, southern Illinois.
Cooperators: John and Trent Funk.
Soil Type: Okaw silt loam.
Planting date: May 1st.
Harvest date: October 1st.
Nitrogen: 185 lbs. as Anhydrous (spring).
Herbicides: POST- Impact.
Tillage : Spring- field cultivator; Fall- Chisel.
Planting date: May 7th.

GROWING SEASON RAINFALL

Location	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Total
Mt. Morris	5.92	8.70	2.54	4.41	2.93	24.2
DeKalb	5.76	7.65	4.55	3.57	3.55	25.1
Erie	4.71	8.44	4.59	2.90	6.33	27.0
Monmouth	4.44	7.80	10.1	3.05	2.52	27.9
New Berlin	5.37	7.61	4.99	1.65	2.73	22.3
Perry	5.17	8.27	9.52	2.42	1.78	27.2
Dwight	4.29	11.2	5.68	2.03	2.24	24.4
Goodfield	4.97	10.1	7.05	2.23	3.39	23.0
Urbana	6.13	9.89	3.76	3.73	6.61	30.3
St. Peter	6.19	12.2	3.65	3.25	4.43	29.7
Belleville	7.02	9.90	3.69	4.82	2.31	27.7
Elkville	5.69	8.82	6.30	2.85	3.02	26.7

2015 CORN LOCATIONS



SOURCES OF SEED

AgVenture , Wehmeyer Seed,	www.agventure.com
Beck , Beck's Hybrids,	www.beckshybrids.com
Burrus , Burrus Seed,	www.burrusseed.com
Catalyst , Burrus Seed,	www.burrusseed.com
Channel , Channel,	www.channel.com
Cornelius , Cornelius, Seed,	www.corneliusseed.com
Dairyland , Dairyland Seed,	www.dairylandseed.com
DeKalb , Dekalb,	www.asgrowanddekalb.com
Dyna-Gro , Dyna-Gro Seed,	www.dynagroseed.com
Federal , Federal Hybrids,	www.federalhybrids.com
Hughes hybrids , Hughes Hybrids,	www.hugheshybrids.com
InVISION , FS InVISION	www.fsinvision.com
Lewis , Lewis Hybrids,	www.seedcorn.com
Merschman , Merschman Seeds, Inc.	www.merschmanseeds.com
Miller , Miller Hybrids,	www.millerhybrids.com
Munson , Munson Hybrids,	www.munsonhybrids.com
Mycogen , Seeds,	www.mycogen.com
NuTech/G2 Genetics , NuTech Seed, LLC	www.nutechseed.com
OMG , Original Maize Genetics,	www.omgcorn.com
Phoenix , Beck's Hybrids,	www.beckshybrids.com
Power Plus , Burrus Seeds,	www.burrusseed.com
Prairie , Prairie Hybrids,	www.prairiehybrids.com
Renk , Renk Seed Co.	www.renkseed.com
Roeschley , Roeschley Hybrids,	www.roeschleyhybrids.com
Spectrum , Spectrum Seed Solutions	www.choosenongmo.com
Steyer Seeds , Steyer Seeds,	www.steyerseeds.com
Stone , Stone Seed Group,	www.stoneseed.com
Sun Prairie Seeds , Sun Prairie Seeds,	www.sunprairiehybrids.com
Whisnand , Whisnand Hybrids,	(217-268-3714)
YIELDirect , YIELDirect,	www.yieldirect.com