

# Those good ole corn hybrids



Double-O seven, a name made famous in James Bond novels, is the name of the hybrid on the left. It doesn't have license to kill anything. On the right is an early DeKalb line, XL 6. The XL designation was given the hybrids meaning "unknown lot," since the firm was unsure of the size of the seed lot they could expect on their first seed crops.



Gunn's Western Plowman was a favorite with midwestern corn belt growers for years. Today a fine, old name is the best thing the line has to offer. The scraggly appearance is normal, not storm damage.

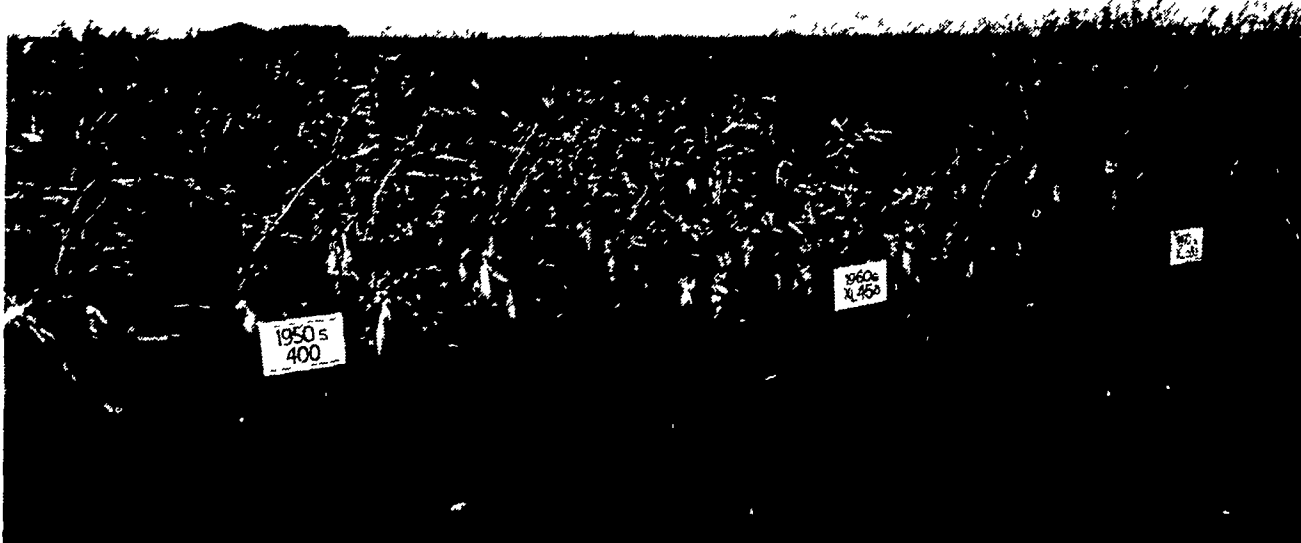


No wind storm laid this plot of Lancaster Sure Crop over on its side. That's the way the field looked about two weeks after pollen set. Compared to modern lines the name of this old time favorite might better have been Lancaster Sure Lodge, although it yielded well in its heyday.



Heterosis, or hybrid vigor, is exhibited in the cross of Lancaster and Reid, the latter line named for its breeder. On the right is an even better looking version of Lancaster Sure Crop, a composite which stands tall compared to the Lancaster shown elsewhere on the page.

Here's how three European hybrids look. From left are the German As; and the French hybrid lines Keo and Galion. The trio represents a group of fairly modern lines. They all are past maturity in this picture and on the way to drydown.



Three varieties, each a decade newer than the one to the left, show the progress of corn since the Second World War. From left, DeKalb's 400, a 1950s favorite; XL 45a, a big leader in the 1960s; and XL 55a, a well liked hybrid of the past 10 years. Note the height and erectness differences. All photos were taken on the DeKalb Research Farm.