

# 1999 Pa. Commercial Hybrid Test Reports

## Short-season hybrids (Maturity Zone 1) 1999 results

### How to use this report

This report provides independent and unbiased information for the evaluation of commercial corn hybrids available in Pennsylvania. It should be used to supplement other sources of information, such as seed industry performance tests, other independent testing data, and on-farm performance records when making hybrid selection decisions.

The first factor to consider when using this report is hybrid maturity. The hybrids listed in Tables 1, 3, and 4 are ranked in ascending order by grain moisture with the earliest hybrids (lowest grain moisture) at the top. In Table 2, hybrids are listed alphabetically. Grain or silage moisture is a good indicator of hybrid maturity; those with lower moisture are generally adapted to shorter season environments. Identify hybrids in the list that you know are adapted to your area, and then evaluate new hybrids that have similar moisture contents. Selecting hybrids based on yield alone may result in a hybrid that is too late for your farm. Note that there is considerable range among maturity in hybrids entered in each zone. Once you have identified the appropriate hybrid maturity range, compare the yields of the hybrids that have been evaluated.

Yield performance is variable across locations and is best predicted by using data averaged over multiple locations, so the mean yield over all sites is the best guide to hybrid performance. Individual location hybrid means (Table 2) can help to assess how consistent, or stable, the hybrid was across locations. For example, some hybrids may do well at high-yielding sites but may not do well at low-yielding sites. We DO NOT recommend using data from a single site, even if it is close to your farm, to make hybrid selection choices.

Once you have identified some prospective hybrids, consider their standability from the erect plants column as well as any disease rating data that may have been collected. It also is important to check with a seed company representative about other characteristics of the hybrid that may be important for your operation.

Once you have gone through this process, you should be

able to select hybrids that have above-average performance. This is an important part of profitable corn production, since, as these reports demonstrate, there is a wide range in the performance of corn hybrids.

Further, we recommend that you evaluate selected hybrids on your farm under your growing conditions and practices. This is the best way to make a final determination of the proper hybrids for your operation.

Tests of commercially available corn hybrids are conducted annually at several locations in each of the four maturity zones in Pennsylvania to provide farmers, seed producers, cooperative extension agents, and other interested persons with information about hybrid performance. This report includes both the grain and silage results from the 1999 season.

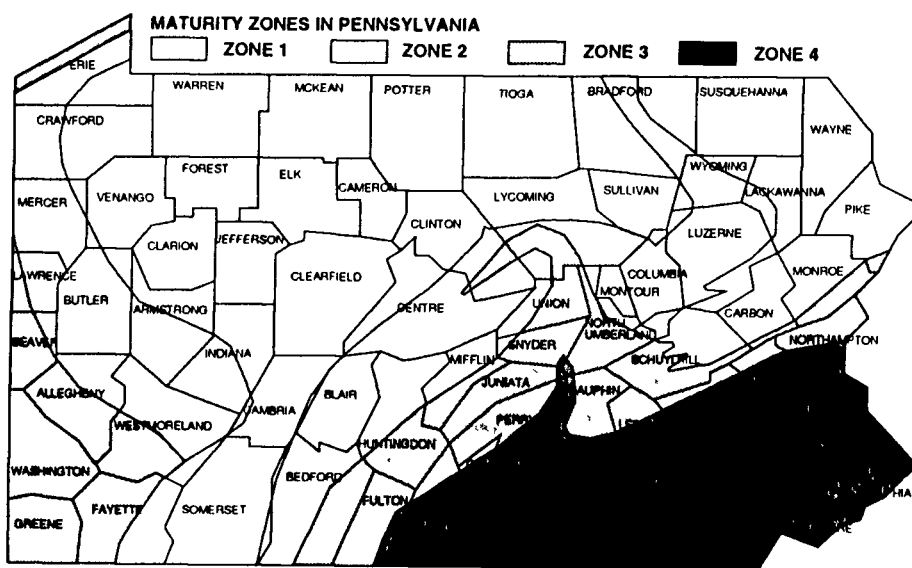
Table 1 contains the combined results for all locations harvested in this zone. Table 2 contains the yield data generated at each location. We believe that the statewide performance averages found in Table 1 are most important to consider when making a final decision about variety capabilities, since they

represent a wide variety of growing, soil, and management conditions. A two-year summary of results for hybrids tested in both 1998 and 1999 growing seasons is given in Table 3. The results for hybrids entered in the silage performance test are reported in Table 4.

### Procedures

This testing program was available to any producer of hybrid seed corn. For the grain tests, hybrids were planted in paired-row plots equal to 1/500 of an acre. Each row was over-planted (30 kernels per row) and thinned when the corn was 12 to 18 inches tall. The final population was 26,000 plants per acre. Silage plots were 1/1,000 acre in size, consisting of one row over-planted to 32 kernels and thinned to a final population of 28,000 plants per acre. All grain entries were replicated three times in each test while silage entries were replicated four times. Cooperators and planting and harvesting dates are shown in Table 5.

(Turn to Page 24)



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