



CORN TALK NEWS

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.



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RESEARCH UPDATE

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

tions, and starter fertilizers under drought prone growing conditions. This study forms one component of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Interdisciplinary Cropping Systems Project.

Six commercial hybrids were grown at populations ranging from 20,000 to 32,000 plants per acre at two sites in southeastern Pennsylvania. Both sites were strongly influenced by drought in 1999, with average yields of 96 and 65 bushels per acre. In contrast to the previous year, yields generally declined as plant populations increased.

It appears that when drought reduces yield potential below 100 bushels per acre, optimum plant population decreases from 30 to 20,000 plants per acre.

The six hybrids were also

planted with and without a starter fertilizer (10-20-20 applied at 140-pounds per acre). All six hybrids responded to the starter with increased height and dry matter at V6 (leaf stage), but there were no significant responses at harvest in terms of grain yield, moisture, or lodging. The three hybrids that responded to starter in the previous year also had slight yield responses in 1999.

In a third study, seven different starter fertilizer treatments were compared, varying in amount and source of N (nitrogen) and amount of P (phosphorous) and K (potassium). These were evaluated in field-

length plots in two counties. The Lebanon county site had no significant responses to starter treatments owing to drought (average yield was 105-bushels per acre. The Centre county site had yield reductions from several starters containing P and sulfur (S), but not from starters containing N only (50-0-0) or N-P-K (10-30-10).

A combination of high soil test levels, a warm spring, ample growing degree days, and limited yields because of drought-reduced responses to the starter fertilizers. These studies are continuing.

From News and Views Potash and Phosphate Institute


Optimum Corn Management Practices For Drought-Prone Soils In Southern Pennsylvania
 Project Leader:
Dr. Greg Roth
 Penn State
 Department of Agronomy
 University Park
 Drought risk is a major

issue for corn producers in southern Pennsylvania. Growers often choose lower plant populations as one method of reducing the impact of drought on corn yield.

The overall objective of these two studies is to evaluate hybrids, plant popula-

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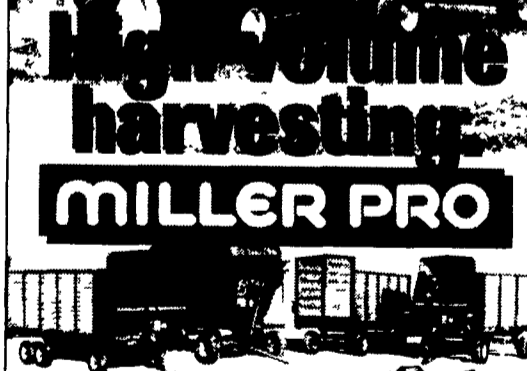
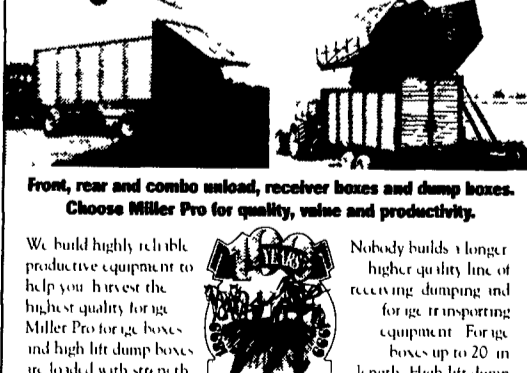
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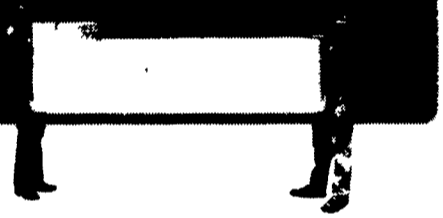
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