

# Back Run Farm

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worm are problems in Johnston's area.

One way to eliminate a poor stand is to take care of the planter. Probably something people overlook the most is their planter, said Johnston. You could have the soil fertility up to 100 percent but you have to have the seed in the ground. For him, a seed firmer, placed in the seed tube, has helped to ensure the seed gets into the seed rut. The planter tends to bounce around a lot and the seed firmer helps to keep the seeds where they're supposed to go. Johnston uses a John Deere planter to plant 15-inch row corn. This year Johnston battled an early spring frost. We had four mornings where the weather was below 32 degrees, and one morning it dropped to 25, he said. Although he debated replanting, he left the stand to grow. The corn rebounded to produce some of his best yields. The setback the corn received actually allowed it to be ready to receive the moisture the area received when the crop needed it the most.

Subsoiling once a year, usually in the spring, has also helped to loosen the soil. He has also done custom work subsoiling for customers, with dramatic results. He planted four varieties of soybeans and two varieties of corn, just to try different varieties and see what's best for the area, he said.

Johnston does the spraying, planting, harvesting, and trucking on his operation, which allows him see every-

thing from start to finish. This is his eighth year growing corn. Once on the career path of veterinary medicine, Johnston spent some time with a friend who did agronomy work, which helped him realize that he enjoyed being outside and working with crops. He procured the job at Agronomy? Right after college. The job has offered a flexible schedule, which is imperative over planting or harvesting time.

Although his full-time job and farming take the lions share of his time, Johnston also enjoys fixing and restoring two-cylinder John Deere tractors and hunting. According to Johnston, deer take a toll on the corn while groundhogs consume the soybeans. Especially in the fields close to the mountain foothills, deer pressure can be intense, so he plants timothy hay, since deer walk right through it to the cornfield. Deer probably account for five bushels an acre loss, he said. He is the son of Harry and Darlene Johnston.

There were 84 participants in the 2001 Pennsylvania Five-Acre Corn Club Contest. In the three-year average ear corn awards Harry Johnston, McConnellsburg, took first place with an average of 191.7 bushels per acre with Pioneer 33G26.

In the ear corn class, Harry Johnston, McConnellsburg, took home second place with a plant population of 25,478 with Pioneer 33G26 and a yield of 211.3 bushels per acre.

significant yield response from starter when the soil P was above 117 ppm. Using a phosphorous starter on a high P soil has no apparent advantage. A better practice might be to substitute with ammonium sulfate as we have found it performs at least as well as 10-30-10 and is a good source of nitrogen.

Pop-up fertilizers are also showing promise. We saw an increase in early season nitrogen uptake and seem to yield as well as the dry starters provided early season N, P and K availability is good. Low application rates and less handling of material also makes them attractive.

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pop-up fertilizer treatments. Overall, the liquids and dry starter fertilizers yielded about two percent higher than the check; however no single treatment was statistically superior. During the growing season conditions were dry, especially during July and August.

### Nutrient Uptake

In general, differences in nutrient uptake at the V-6 growth stage were small in our formulation study. There were no treatments that significantly increased uptake when compared to the check. Nitrogen uptake using pop-ups was increased about 14 percent over the check, while the dry starters averaged three percent lower than the check. Ironically, only three gallons per acre of each liquid was applied while 180 pounds per acre of each dry fertilizer was used.

### Conclusions

The on-farm study data suggests that an early growth response from a starter will occur about 50 percent of the time, however this does not always translate into a yield response. We saw no

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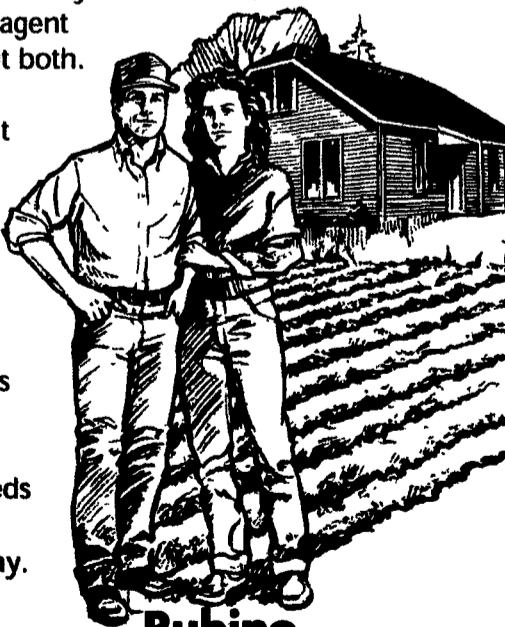
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# Hybrid Test Reports

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of Seed Technologies

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## 2002 BETTER HYBRIDS Harvest Report for Northern Delmarva [DMNO] Tim Bishop, 532 Stagwell Rd., Queenstown MD., 21658 [EASTON]

SOIL CONDITIONS: Sandy clay loam, 0.5% slope, moderately well drained  
1.4 o.m., 6.5 pH, moderately high P, moderately high K

PREVIOUS CROP/HERB: Soybeans/Roundup Ultra at 32 oz./A  
TILLAGE/CULTIVATION: No-till

NITROGEN PROGRAM: 100# as 32% with herbicide + 75# as 30% sidedress coulters injected  
PEST MANAGEMENT: Roundup Ultra + Define + Aatrex, Regent 4SC

PLANTED - SEEDING: April 26 - 30,600/A  
HARVESTED - STAND: September 25 - 26,700/A

TOP 24 OF 36 TESTED  
AVERAGE OF (3) REPLICATIONS

COMPANY	HYBRID	YIELD Bu/A	MOIST %	LOGGING %	STAND (000)	INCOME \$
MID-ATLANTIC	MA9094	105.5	14.3	0.3	25.6	\$265.2
DOEBLERS	760DT	105.3	16.4	0.7	26.7	\$260.4
GARST	8443	105.0	14.7	0.3	24.9	\$263.2
GOLDEN HARVEST	H-9247Bt	102.5	16.0	0.0	25.0	\$254.2
GOLDEN HARVEST	H-9471	99.7	15.9	1.0	27.6	\$247.4
CLARKE SEEDS	CL736RR	99.0	13.5	2.0	26.8	\$250.5
MID-ATLANTIC	MA9070RR	98.2	13.2	0.7	27.9	\$248.9
MYCOGEN	7821Bt	97.6	15.9	0.7	26.3	\$242.3
MYCOGEN	7474	97.6	14.8	1.7	27.6	\$244.5
DOEBLERS	749XYG	97.6	14.9	0.3	27.2	\$244.1
MID-ATLANTIC	MA8011RR	96.0	14.4	0.0	25.4	\$241.2
GARST	8288	95.8	17.7	0.3	25.9	\$234.4
MYCOGEN	2A791	95.2	16.2	0.3	26.8	\$235.6
PIONEER	34M94	94.6	14.7	0.3	28.0	\$237.1
HYTEST SEEDS	HT7806Bt	93.8	18.8	0.7	24.4	\$227.5
MID-ATLANTIC	MA9060YG	90.8	14.3	0.7	26.0	\$228.3
HYTEST SEEDS	HT7761	90.6	16.6	0.7	27.3	\$223.4
CAMPBELL	7255	90.3	16.1	2.7	26.8	\$223.8
DEKALB	DKC60-08YG	88.2	13.8	0.0	27.1	\$222.6
SCHILLINGER SEED	SS618	87.5	13.4	0.7	27.8	\$221.5
SCHILLINGER SEED	SS727	87.4	15.8	0.0	25.9	\$217.1
GOLDEN HARVEST	H-9231	86.5	14.5	0.0	26.8	\$217.3
DEKALB	DKC60-17RR	85.9	15.2	0.0	27.3	\$214.4
GARST	8362IT	85.9	16.4	0.3	25.7	\$212.2
Test Averages =		<b>89.9</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>\$224.3</b>
Std(.10) =		16.0	0.8	1.0		
F.I.R.S.T. Manager C.V. =		13.0	3.8	129.9		

YIELD/INCOME FACTORS: BASE MOISTURE = 15.0% | SHRINK = 1.0 | DRYING = \$.020/Pt/Bu | PRICE = \$2.50/Bu

### FIELD NOTES

No rainfall from June 20 through August 10, amazing there was any corn!

This report and others are available at [www.agsci.com](http://www.agsci.com)

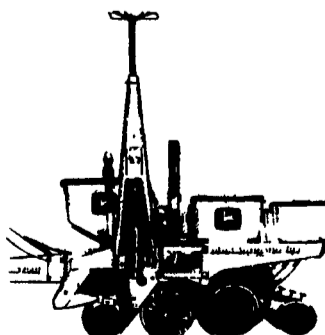
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