

Mississippi Corn for Grain Hybrid Trials, 2016

PROCEDURES

Trials were conducted on Experiment Station land or on grower-cooperator fields in two geographical areas in Mississippi: Area I, located in the hill region of Mississippi (one irrigated and four dryland locations); and Area II, located in the Delta region of Mississippi (three irrigated locations) (see map). Commercial seed companies were given the opportunity to enter hybrids in either Area I or Area II or both.

Plots consisted of two 30-inch rows, 15 feet long. Weeds were controlled by cultivation and/or herbicides. Only herbicides currently registered for use on corn were used in these studies, with strict adherence to all label instructions.

All hybrids were treated with Poncho or Cruiser for seedling insect control. Experimental design was a randomized complete block with four replications at each location.

Seed of all entries were supplied by participating companies. All seed were packaged for planting at seeding rates suggested by the participating company and planted with a cone planter. Fertilizer was applied according to soil test recommendations. Plots in Area I were grown under both dryland and irrigated conditions, and plots in Area II were grown under irrigated conditions. All irrigated trials were either furrow or center-pivot irrigated, as necessary.

VARIABLES MEASURED IN THE CORN HYBRID TESTS

Yield: An Almaco SPC 40 plot combine was used to harvest the total area of each plot. Harvested grain was weighed, moisture was determined, and yields were converted to bushels per acre at 14% moisture.

Ear Height: Ear height is the distance from the soil to the highest ear-bearing node.

Harvest Population: Harvest population is a measure of the number of plants per acre, based on actual stand counts.

USE OF DATA TABLES AND SUMMARY STATISTICS

The yield potential of a given hybrid cannot be measured with complete accuracy. Consequently, replicate plots of all hybrids are evaluated for yield, and the yield of a given hybrid is estimated as the mean of all replicate plots of that hybrid. Yields vary somewhat from one replicate plot to another, which introduces a certain degree of error to the value. As a result, although the mean yields of some hybrids are numerically different, the two hybrids may not be significantly different from each other within the range of natural variation. That is, the ability to measure yield is not precise enough to determine what the small differences are, other than what might be observed purely by chance.

The least significant difference (LSD) is an estimate of the smallest difference between two hybrids that can be declared to be the result of something other than random variation in a particular trial. Consider the following example for a given trial:

Hybrid	Yield
A	90 bu/A
B	85 bu/A
C	81 bu/A
LSD	7 bu/A

The difference between hybrid A and hybrid B is 5 bu/A (i.e., $90 - 85 = 5$). This difference is smaller than the LSD (7 bu/A). Consequently, we would conclude that hybrid A and hybrid B have the same yield potential, since we are unable to say that the observed difference did not occur purely due to chance. However, the difference between hybrid A and hybrid C is 9 bu/A (i.e., $90 - 81 = 9$), which is larger than the LSD (7 bu/A). We would therefore conclude that the yield potential of hybrid A is superior to that of hybrid C.

The coefficient of variation (CV) is a measure of the relative precision of a given trial and is used to compare the relative precision of different trials. The CV is gener-

ally considered an estimate of the amount of unexplained variation in a given trial. This unexplained variation can be the result of variation between plots with respect to soil type, fertility, insects, diseases, moisture stress, etc. Overall, as the CV increases, the precision of a given trial decreases.

The coefficient of determination (R^2) is another measure of the level of precision in a trial and is also used to compare the relative precision of different trials. The R^2 is a

measure of the amount of variation that is explained, or accounted for, in a given trial. For example, an R^2 value of 90 percent indicates that 90 percent of the observed variation in the trial has been accounted for in the trial, with the remaining 10 percent being unaccounted for. The higher the R^2 value, the more precise the trial. The R^2 is generally considered a better measure of precision than the CV for comparison of different trials.

Table 1. 2016 corn hybrid trials location summary.

Location	Irrigation	Soil type	Planting date	Harvest date	Row spacing
Aberdeen, Chris Ausborn Farm	Nonirrigated	Houston clay	4/8	8/31	30"
Brooksville, Black Belt Branch	Nonirrigated	Brooksville silty clay	4/9	8/16	30"
Hernando, Clifton Farms	Nonirrigated	Collins silt loam	4/8	9/8	30"
Raymond, Brown Loam Branch	Nonirrigated	Loring silt loam	4/5, 4/29 ¹	9/7	30"
Macon, Dorsey Unruh Farm	Pivot Irrigated	Brooksville & Vaiden silty clay	4/22	9/2	30"
Minter City, Ricky Belk Farm	Furrow Irrigated	Dubbs & Dundee silt loam	4/19	8/30	30"
Rolling Fork, Todd Heigle Farm	Furrow Irrigated	Commerce silty clay loam	4/6	9/1	30"
Stoneville (clay), Delta Branch	Furrow Irrigated	Sharkey clay	5/5	9/1	30"
Stoneville (loam), Delta Branch	Furrow Irrigated	Bosket & Commerce very fine sandy loam	3/28	8/29	30"

¹Replanted on 4/29.

Table 2. 2016 corn hybrid yield summary for dryland locations.

Brand	Hybrid number ¹	Aberdeen	Brooksville	Hernando	Raymond	Overall avg.
		<i>bu/A</i>	<i>bu/A</i>	<i>bu/A</i>	<i>bu/A</i>	<i>bu/A</i>
AgriGold	A6719VT2PRO	199.1	107.6	108.5	85.5	125.2
AgriGold	A6499VT2RIB	181.0	110.7	88.7	115.7	124.0
AgriGold	A6544VT2PRO	184.9	124.1	109.9	128.0	136.7
AgriGold	A6559VT2RIB	192.0	91.8	133.2	91.1	127.0
AgriGold	A6572VT2PRO	196.5	118.0	137.4	127.0	144.7
AgriGold	A6652VT2PRO	192.8	99.6	98.3	99.3	122.5
AgriGold	A6659 VT2 RIB	184.9	127.4	80.9	147.9	135.3
AgriGold	A6711VT2PRO	180.7	94.4	103.5	128.0	126.7
AgriGold	A6687VT2PRO	175.1	120.9	99.1	134.6	132.4
AgVenture	RL8714YHB	198.8	84.1	92.3	151.8	131.8
Armor	1414	192.9	167.4	132.9	124.3	154.4
Armor	1500	180.4	104.3	119.8	126.8	132.8
Armor	1717	178.7	107.2	115.9	162.9	141.2
Armor	AXC6116 *	180.8	93.5	114.4	81.8	117.6
Armor	AXG6118 *	179.0	88.0	123.1	99.6	122.4
Augusta	1564	180.7	127.2	65.5	130.6	126.0
Augusta	5566	177.8	95.1	115.6	112.3	125.2
Augusta	5664	170.7	114.5	120.7	111.6	129.4
Augusta	7766	183.3	116.5	107.0	141.9	137.2
Croplan	5290DG/VT2P	181.4	128.3	121.5	125.9	139.3
Croplan	6640VT3	186.3	139.8	71.4	163.7	140.3
DeKalb	DKC62-08	183.9	104.2	114.0	116.5	129.7
DeKalb	DKC62-20RIB	195.0	128.7	97.5	143.8	141.2
DeKalb	DKC64-35	190.4	128.0	101.1	146.6	141.5
DeKalb	DKC66-59	188.9	135.8	108.8	140.8	143.6
DeKalb	DKC66-75	198.0	102.9	105.5	142.9	137.3
DeKalb	DKC67-14	190.1	140.6	99.0	137.6	141.8
DeKalb	DKC67-44	202.9	112.9	134.0	149.9	149.9
DeKalb	DKC67-72	183.5	112.8	123.5	131.5	137.8
DeKalb	DKC68-26	171.9	146.9	88.4	125.9	133.3
DeKalb	DKC70-27	188.7	98.7	101.9	136.2	131.4
Delta Grow	DG 2688	155.7	72.9	90.3	129.3	112.0
Delta Grow	DG 2888	170.2	84.7	111.2	104.2	117.6

¹Hybrid followed by an asterisk indicates an experimental entry.