



Agronomic Spotlight



Interpreting Yield Data

As yield trial results roll in this fall, how can you tell which hybrids or varieties will be the ones you want to plant next season? It is important to remember the following points when interpreting the data:

Evaluate multiple locations.

Data from a single plot near your farm is only one snapshot of performance, and it will not provide a complete picture of hybrid or variety potential. Seed choices may yield well at one location and poorly at another. Weather, insect pressure, and fertility are just a few variables that can affect hybrid and variety performance across locations. Therefore, evaluation of a hybrid or variety across multiple locations allows the greatest opportunity to get an accurate picture of their performance and consistency. If there is data available, an evaluation of hybrid or variety performance from several years is also beneficial.

Evaluate multiple scenarios.

Field management can also affect hybrid performance. Take a look at the field history. When was the field planted? What was the crop rotation?



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How much tillage was involved? Was a soil insecticide used? How were weeds controlled? What traits were in the seed and how did they contribute to yield?

Seek head-to-head comparisons.

When trying to determine if one hybrid or variety is superior to another, compare them not just at one plot, but at many. Look for the number of times or percent of the time that one out-yields the other across a large number of trials.

Identify differences not related to the seed.

Plot results may include differences in yields that can come from variations across a plot test site. Care should be taken to identify how much of the yield variations reported may be attributed to other field factors not related to the seed choices.

In Summary, no hybrid or variety, even if it truly has higher yield potential, will win every yield plot or every test every time. Field experience has shown that top performing seed brands will only produce the top yield in a given trial in a range of from 60 to 80 percent of the time. The more data and comparisons

we examine, the better our confidence level will be in picking a winning hybrid or variety.

If you have further questions or would like to discuss yield data and seed placement, please contact your DEKALB® brand seed agronomist.

Sources:
OMAFRA Staff, *Corn: Hybrid Selection, Excerpts from Agronomy Guide for Field Crops, Pub 811, 30 April 2009*
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/pub811>

Unknown author, *Purdue University, Selecting Hybrids and Varieties, Assessed 10-24-09*
<http://www.ag.purdue.edu/agry/PCPP>

Individual results may vary, and performance may vary from location to location and from year to year. This result may not be an indicator of results you may obtain as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible.

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