10 Webster Street, Suite 210
Town Square, Box 204
Kentville, NS Canada
B4N 1H7

199 Innovation Drive
AgriTECH Park
Truro, NS
Canada
B2N 6Z4

Prepared by:
Jack van Roestel
Field Crops
(902) 678-7722
j.vanroestel@agrapoint.ca

Bill Thomas
Field Crops
(902) 896-0277
b.thomas@agrapoint.ca

Nov 2003 Vol 2 Issue 4

CropLinks

information on forages, corn and cereals

This is the time of year we traditionally reflect back on the past cropping season while making plans for next year. Extensive winter kill in alfalfa, a wet spring that delayed seeding, wireworms, BSE, low hog prices and a hurricane made 2003 a year that many farmers will not soon forget. We hope you find the information in CropLinks useful in managing your cropping program. This issue primarily deals with cultivar selection and changes to the recommended lists. If you would like to discuss your cropping strategy including cultivar selection please give us a call.

CONTENTS

New Additions to the 2004 Corn Guide

A high yielding high quality corn crop starts with choosing the right hybrid. Hybrid selection is probably the single most important decision you make growing corn. Corn development is primarily driven by temperature. It is important to select hybrids within your production zone to help ensure the crop will reach maturity before a killing frost. Corn that does not reach maturity before killing frost will be lower in quality. If growing more than one hybrid be sure that their maturities do not differ significantly from the dry matter data shown in the Corn Guide.

Serious consideration should also be given to using Bt corn. The Bt advantage is real. Bt corn gives season long resistance to European corn borer along with some resistance to ear worm and army worm. Bt corn generally outperforms standard hybrids by protecting against yield loss from stalk and ear shank tunneling, kernel feeding and stalk breakage. If growing Bt corn, please be sure to implement a proper refuge program as specified by your seed dealer. An effective refuge program will help prevent insects from developing resistance to Bt and preserve this very valuable technology long into the future.

There are **three** new hybrids added to the 2004 Recommended Grain Corn List: CO-OP ELITE N09-A5, Monsanto DKC 27-15 and Pioneer 38P78.

CO-OP ELITE N09-A5, is a 2350-2450 heat unit corn with both Liberty Link and Bt technology *(Liberty is a contact herbicide applied at the 1 to 8 leaf stage)*. This hybrid yields well, but is quite late and therefore only suitable for Zone 1. Refer to Corn Production Zone map on backside of the Corn Guide. **DKC 27-15** new to the silage list last year is now also on the grain list. DKC 27-15 has both Roundup Ready and Bt genetics, and is the only Roundup Ready corn on the Recommended List. DKC27-15, available from Monsanto, is a 2300 heat unit corn, suitable for Zone 1 grain production and Zone 1&2 silage production. **Pioneer 38P78**, is an ultra early (2050 CHU) grain hybrid. 38P78 made the list because it is so early; which increases the opportunity for lower heat unit areas to get into grain corn production.

New to the 2004 Recommended Silage List is: **Hyland S011, Pioneer 39D82, MAIZEX LF763 Bt and CO-OP Elite 45T18.**

(continued on page 2)

2004 Forage Recommended List

There are no new additions to the 2004 Forage Recommendation List. For a variety to be added to the Recommended List it must yield as well as or better than other recommended varieties, it must be resistant to disease and be persistent. Presently there are several cultivar evaluation tests being conducted in the region including trials on alfalfa, red clover, white clover, timothy and perennial ryegrass.

Choosing a forage cultivar is usually a three or more year commitment. There is no doubt it pays to grow adapted varieties. Often the right cultivar can increase yields one to two tonnes per hectare. The major factors influencing the profitability of a forage stand are yield, persistence, disease resistance and forage quality. The most important factor affecting profitability is yield followed by persistence or winterhardiness. Differences in feeding quality between cultivars and seed costs have a much lesser effect.

New Additions 2004

(continued from page 1)

HLS011 like HLS009 and HLS014 is a leafy type hybrid. Leafy type hybrids have several more leaves above the ear than conventional hybrids. HLS011 is higher yielding than the other leafy hybrids but is only suitable for Zone 1. **Pioneer 39D82**, is a Bt hybrid and is also a relatively late hybrid (2625 CHU) being recommended for Zone 1 only. **MAIZEX LF763 Bt** is a 2400 heat unit Bt corn that performed exceptionally well, being brought on the list after only one year of testing. It is a tall plant with upright leaves and rapid spring growth. This hybrid has the highest silage yield of any other hybrid on the Recommended List. Quite remarkable considering it is early enough to be considered for all three zones. Finally, **CO-OP Elite 45T18** is a non Bt corn with moderate yield that is recommended for all zones.

When purchasing seed, plan to drop 30,000-32,000 seeds per acre for silage corn and 27,000 -28,000 seeds per acre for grain corn. Research has shown corn performs best when final populations are around 28,500 for silage and 26,000 for grain.

More Corn News...

- MAIZEX and RAGT corn hybrids are available in the Maritimes through Jackson Seeds (584-3205) and affiliated dealers. In Nova Scotia those seeds reps are G. Jackson, B. McCurdy, J. Dillman, D.L. MacDonald). MAIZEX is based out of Ontario and besides offering LF 763Bt, it has a very early-high yielding grain hybrid (MZ 130) , promising higher heat unit silage hybrids, and others. RAGT is a French company that is linked with Semican in Quebec who will likely be submitting hybrids for Maritime testing in 2004.
- PICKSEED has two medium maturity grain hybrids (Silex Bt & 2365RR) that have done very well after just one year of testing. The Silex Bt also has silage potential, but hasn't been tested in the Maritime silage trials, and 2365 RR is a Roundup Ready hybrid.
- Pioneer Hi-Bred has a couple Roundup-Ready (RR) versions of their veteran 39T68 hybrid. These are 39T66 (both RR & Bt) & 39T67 (RR only), which have only been developed this year and not tested yet in the Maritimes. These 39T68 genetics have been passed on and enhanced in 39T70 (which is a Liberty Link and Bt hybrid) and has tested very well in the 2003 Maritime Silage & Grain Tests.
- CO-OP's highly recommended Zone1 grain hybrid 50P20 LL had a fantastic year in the Maritime trials and ranked consistently 1st or 2nd out of 30 hybrids at all 4 test sites. This 50P20 LL looks like it has silage potential as well, and will hopefully be entered in the 2004 Silage Test. The 50P20 LL is a Liberty Link hybrid, and in next spring's newsletter we'll discuss cheaper Liberty tank mix options, than the Liberty Prime.
- Hyland Seeds has a 2600 heat unit grain hybrid HL B258 that topped the Valley test this year . This is a Bt hybrid that's got to be grown on early Valley soils, and has tremendous grain yield potential.
- For double croppers in the Valley, that want to have an early-high yielding silage hybrid that can be harvested by Sept. 15-20th and winter wheat planted a few days later, you have several fine options in 39R34 (Bt), HL S009 and HL S014 (XL's), LF 763 Bt, 39W54 and DKC 27-15 (RR & Bt). Call us if you need other corn hybrid information.

Wireworm Treatments for 2004?

This December corn growers will not just pick which hybrids they'll use next year, but also need to determine a wireworm control strategy for 2004. Unfortunately, some of the wireworm treatment options for corn are uncertain, let's review the situation...

- Wireworms have been an increasing problem in NS cornfields, particularly in the 1st or 2nd year after forages, and especially in the Valley. Wireworms are also a problem in potatoes, turnips, and occasionally winter wheat and barley with even less effective treatment options for all these crops in 2004.
- In recent years, Agrox DL Plus the traditional seed hopper treatment containing Lindane has been inadequate on heavy wireworm pressure with corn plant population and yields suffering. Some growers have consequently gone to a more concentrated spray application of Lindane 25W that's pre-plant incorporated for corn, and quite effective. As of December 31, 2003, our national regulator agency is phasing out all Lindane products by not allowing any sales after this date, and growers have just the 2004 cropping season to use up any Lindane, Agrox DL Plus, NM Dual Purpose or Vitavax Dual Purpose inventory.
- There is a good replacement for Lindane in corn crops called Poncho, however, its availability is being delayed. Poncho was advertised in September as being registered for seed companies to apply on corn, however, some labeling problems have left it in jeopardy for 2004 use. Corn seed companies treat and package seed in Dec-Jan., so this leaves them little time (if Poncho is cleared) to treat a portion of seed with Poncho and adjust orders with customers.

What should you do for wireworm control in corn for 2004? Check with your corn seed rep. or us around Dec.10th to see if Poncho will be available on 2004 seed,and if not go purchase the Agrox DL Plus by Dec. 31st. If the Agrox DL Plus wasn't working effectively on some fields then get some Lindane 25W (1 kg/acre rate @$28/acre) before year end, or use Force 3G if the planter has insecticide applicators.

Cereal Comments

The 2004 Cereal Guide to Cultivar Selection is also included in this mailout. There are very few changes from last year, with only the addition of two new winter feed wheats (Pioneer 25R49 and 25R26) and the deletion of Pioneer 2540. Both new wheats have been tested and grown commercially in the Maritimes for the past 2 years, with 25R49 having a bit more yield potential than 25R26.

Lastly wheat and barley grown right after forages has the potential for wireworm damage. If you suspect this maybe a problem on your farm, book adequate amounts of NM Dual Purpose of Vitavax Dual Purpose prior to Dec. 31st. The regular seed treatment on certified seed doesn't contain Lindane, so one of the above mentioned products needs to be purchased for a drill-box treatment to tackle wireworms.