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# CropLinks

information on forages, corn and cereals

## Special Corn Growers Issue

This issue of CropLinks contains the 2010 Corn Guide to assist you with hybrid selection and early booking decisions. The Cereal, Soybean and new Forage Guide will be ready in mid-December. Much of the credit for this quick corn data release has to go to the "Corn Testers" at these five Maritime sites and a very efficient AAFC statistician in Charlottetown.

## Cropping Season Wrap Up!

At the time of writing this issue (less than a month from Christmas) the 2009 cropping season is almost "all in the bag", except for about 1,000 acres of grain corn in the Valley and central NS. Generally, 2009 was not good to us from a fertilizer price or crop performance standpoint. Yes we had lots of late July-August moisture that led to good 2<sup>nd</sup> cut forage and soybean yields, but... winter wheat and spring cereal yields were down usually 20 – 30% with higher DON toxin levels from many fields, and provincial corn results were not great also.

Corn fields that got planted early on better drained soils did quite well, but corn crops on heavier land were often mediocre to disappointing. Corn on these imperfectly drained fields ran out of planter nitrogen (N) too early in July, when manure -N release was being delayed by abnormally cooler soils or pH problems. Pollination and cob sizing was further compromised with 25% less July sunshine hours and heat. Then to top it off, corn maturity and silage harvest was slowed by the 13% lower heat units in September and almost 40% lower heat units in October. Excess rainfall in October was a real problem, Kentville AAFC weather station reported 6" of rain during the month, NSAC had 7.5", and PEI – AAFC had over 9" of wetness.

## Some Corn Smut Fungus

A half dozen growers have mentioned they had corn smut fungus in a few fields. Corn smut occurs throughout the world, but is usually not economically important. The smut gall is a black mass of greasy -powdery spores enclosed in a silvery membrane. This smut usually forms

on the end of the corn ear, but sometimes is on the mid-rib part of the leaf or on stalk nodes. Corn smut occurs usually in stressed areas of field which have inadequate fertility. Carryover to next year's corn crop can be reduced with deeper plowing diseased residue and using a more resistant hybrid. Smuts do not produce harmful mycotoxins and there is no information in the scientific literature suggesting hazards from feeding smutty corn grain. The livestock can find the spores irritating to their nasal passages and sinuses and may prefer not to eat smutty corn if other alternatives are available, but there are no direct hazards from feeding the grain.

## New Additions to Recommended Hybrid Lists on BACK



## New Additions to Recommended Hybrid Lists

There are 7 new grain corn and 3 new silage corn hybrids added to the Maritime Recommended Lists. Here are a few comments on these hybrids in order of maturity:

**39Z69 (Pioneer)** goes on both silage and grain lists. It's similar maturity to 39F60, but with less grain yield potential than F60.

**ExTend Bt (Pickseed)** this 2<sup>nd</sup> year hybrid leads all other silage hybrids in yield. ExTend is slightly higher in heat unit requirement for silage maturity than Pickseed's SilEx hybrid. ExTend Bt is a true leafy (10 leaves above cob) that should be seeded a bit lighter for silage at 28,000 – 30,000 seeds/acre. It's sold out already for 2010.

**Fusion RR (Coop Elite)** is a good yielding, later maturing silage which is RR only and will fit nicely as the non-Bt refuge hybrid for 20T18 Bt/RR or other companies' Bt/RR hybrids in this maturity.

**2286 Bt (Pickseed)** is an early, grain corn only hybrid that provides good yield potential in this lower heat unit range.

**A4176Bt/RR (Pride)** is the RR version of A4175Bt which are fairly early, and very good yielding dual purpose grain-silage hybrids. These hybrids are underutilized with their good yield-early maturity potential.

**N04A-3000 GT (Syngenta)** is the first triple stacked hybrid going on the grain list, that has glyphosate tolerance (GT), corn borer (Bt) and root-worm (RW) protection. Corn in the Maritimes usually doesn't have root-worm problems. Not sure if there is an extra RW tech fee with this hybrid, and if so whether you'll get a payback on the RW fee.

**N05-C7 (Syngenta)** is a GT-Bt hybrid that is intermediate in our maturity listing and has decent grain yield. Syngenta may only have 2010 seed on the GT version of this hybrid.

**P7535HR (Pioneer)** is a Bt/RR hybrid with similar grain maturity, but lower yielding than F60. Holds more promise for silage use, where it matures early compared to most hybrids on the silage Rec. List.

**DKC 27-45 (Dekalb)** this shorter statured grain hybrid is later maturing and less yield in our Maritime trials than the higher CHU rated (but earlier) DKC 29-98. The DKC 27-45 is a Bt/RR hybrid.

### Corn Seed Sales Reps in Nova Scotia

#### Co-op Elite Seeds:

Rafael Gonzalez (Atlantic Rep. 506-858-6356)

Sonny Murray (Western NS 670-1619)

Jason Wells (Central/Eastern NS 956-1238)

#### Hyland Seeds:

Brian and Edna Newcombe -Atlantic Reps.

680-6652 (Brian) 678-1275 (Edna)

#### Maizex Seeds:

Gordon & Joyce Jackson (Atlantic Reps. 825-7465  
or 584-3205)

John Dillman (Central NS 758-5199 or 384-2264)

Don MacDonald (Eastern NS 386-2687)

#### Monsanto or Dekalb Seeds:

Gordon & Joyce Jackson (Atlantic Reps. 584-3205)

John Dillman (Central NS 384-2264)

Don MacDonald (Eastern NS 386-2687)

Truro Agromart ( NS 895-2857)

#### Pickseed:

Randy Dymont (Atlantic Rep 888-7652)

Don Conrad (Western NS 542-3952)

Jim Baillie (Central & Northern NS 890-3419)

Ron MacDonald (Eastern NS 863-4848)

#### Pioneer Hi-Bred:

Jim Lamb (Atlantic Rep. 680-0243 or 538-3623)

Dave Angevine (Central/Eastern NS 899-1456)

#### Pride Seeds:

Terry Prescott (Central/Eastern NS 890-0132)

#### Syngenta:

Not provided by press time

## Zone Designations for Maritime Corn Production

The Maritime Provinces have been divided into 4 zones for corn production (see map and Recommended List table in the Corn Guide insert). The zone designations indicate the general potential of an area for corn production. Within any Production Zone, small pockets with better or poorer corn potential may occur due to topography, soil types, drainage, frost potential, etc... The ultimate test is to evaluate corn production and new hybrids on a small scale at your location prior to attempting any major production.

Zone 1: (Over 2500 CHU's) Greatest potential for corn production as either silage or high moisture and dry grain corn exists in this zone. Field to Field soil variations should be considered when selecting corn hybrids.

Zone 2: (2300-2500 CHU's) Early hybrids are required for good silage maturity. The earliest grain hybrids will produce acceptable high moisture ear or grain corn.

Zone 3: (2200-2300 CHU's) Only the earliest hybrids will produce acceptable silage in this zone. High moisture grain corn is quite risky.

Zone 4: (Less than 2200 CHU's) Corn production is very risky and corn will usually freeze before becoming sufficiently mature for acceptable silage.