



Corn Planting Tips

As with soybeans, this year's corn seed will need special care--Special care for different reasons, though.

First, we know now that different hybrid-herbicide combinations can reduce yield due to the corn hybrid metabolizing the herbicide slower. Even within the same herbicide family, which is grouped by the mode of action in which it kills weeds, there are degrees of injury. Knowing which hybrid-herbicide combinations reduce yield is obviously beneficial. Testing of hybrids and inbreds for sensitivity to herbicides is done after superior agronomic traits are achieved. To do otherwise would be breeding for unknown herbicide response. Hoegemeyer 2649's response to misapplication of some ALS Inhibitor herbicides is often used as an example, but the concern is really industry-wide across all conventional hybrids. Your Hoegemeyer District Salesperson knows what misapplication conditions will be harmful to which hybrids. Please use this information to plan a beneficial application of all herbicides.

A second consideration is achieving a good plant stand. Numerous university studies show the relation of evenly emerged corn plants and final yield. For instance, planting too fast into wet soil with poor soil tilth can knock out a lot of potential yield. Yearly planter maintenance is therefore very important. Another goal in achieving a good plant stand is understanding the plant population relation to yield of the hybrid you have chosen. Desired final population is getting more hybrid specific in modern day breeding programs. Determining whether you are managing a flex hybrid or a determinate hybrid is important because of the impact it has on population. Many hybrids simply cannot reach their potential without a certain population and will react poorly to low populations. These are the determinate hybrids. Other hybrids will develop spindly stalks and lodge under high populations, but yield well and develop good stalks at moderate populations. These are commonly referred to as flex hybrids.

And finally, don't buy into the misconception that the time to cut drastically back on inputs is when commodity prices are low and inputs are high. As with most things, the time to pay attention to the details is more crucial when things aren't going so well since there is less room for error. Missing out on potential profit can be the costliest thing you do.

Hoegemeyer understands that the input costs weighed against output profit are always a challenge to manage. Plenty of resources are available that will help place the cost/benefit on topics such as waiting another day to plant your crop, spending valuable time calibrating for herbicides, slowing down and covering less acres, and hiring a planter inspection.