

Recommended Corn Silage Hybrids

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Cornell University evaluates 95-115 day corn silage hybrids at two locations in central/western NY and 75-100 day corn silage hybrids at two locations in Northern New York. We arrange the hybrids in the field into 5-day relative maturity (RM) groups (i.e. 95-100, 101-105 day hybrids, etc.) and harvest one or two RM groups at a particular site when the hybrids are in the 60-70% moisture range. We also take a 2000-gram sample at harvest to determine moisture and to run silage quality analyses on all four replications of each hybrid at each site.

MILK2000, a spreadsheet from the University of Wisconsin, calculates milk/ton, a silage quality index, derived from neutral detergent fiber (NDF), NDF digestibility, crude protein, ash, and starch concentrations in the quality analyses. MILK2000 also calculates milk yield/acre of each hybrid by combining silage yield and milk/ton values. We recommend hybrids that have comparative milk yields of 100 or greater (the average milk yield of each hybrid RM group is adjusted to 100 and hybrids within the RM group with above-average milk yields have values above 100). We have listed the comparative milk yields as well as comparative silage yields and milk/ton values for hybrids that have performed above-average in our trials (Tables 1 and 2). **Hybrids should only be compared within RM groups. Hybrids that have been tested more than 1 year should be given more weight because they have performed above-average in more tests.**

Central/Western NY

Hybrids 37K84 from Pioneer for the second consecutive year and 4955XRR from FS Seeds performed exceptionally well in the 95-100-day RM group in 2005 (Table 1). Hybrids 964L from LICA and 38H67 from Pioneer also performed very well in the 95-100 day RM group in 2005. Other hybrids that have performed well in this maturity group during the last 2-3 years include HL S047 from Hyland, 38H67 from Pioneer, and 5424 from Chemgro.

The hybrid TA557-00F performed exceptionally well for the third consecutive year in the 101-105 day RM group with a comparative milk yield of 122 in 2005 (Table 1). The hybrids HL S058 from Hyland and N48-L4 from Northrup King also had outstanding milk yields in the 101-105 day RM group in 2005. The hybrid DKC54-51 (YGCB) also performed well in this maturity group for the second consecutive year in 2005.

The hybrid 34B23 from Pioneer had its best year ever with a comparative milk yield of 121 in the 106-100 day RM group in 2005. It has been an outstanding silage hybrid for yield and quality now for 6 years in New York. The hybrid HLS 067 from Hyland also had outstanding milk yields for the fifth consecutive year in New York. New hybrid releases that performed well in the 106-110 day RM group in 2005 include 34A86 from Pioneer, DG 5324 from UAP, and 620 from Doebler's.

The hybrid 31G66 from Pioneer had its second consecutive outstanding year in the 111-115 day RM group in 2005 (Table 1). Although 31G66 compared to 34B39 from Pioneer had greater silage yields, both hybrids had about the same milk yields in 2005 because of the high milk/ton value of 34B39. Five new hybrids in the 111-115 day RM group, including HT7749 BT/RR2 from Hytest, H-9493Bt from Golden Harvest, 33D63 from Pioneer, DKC61-72 (RR2) from DeKalb, and RX702 RR2/YGCB from Asgrow also had outstanding milk yields in 2005.

Northern New York

Hybrids HL SR22 and HL S009 from Hyland had outstanding milk yields in the 75-85 day RM group in 2005 (Table 2). The hybrid HT7060BT/RR2 from Hytest performed very well for the second consecutive year and HL S014 from Hyland also had outstanding milk yields in the 75-85-day RM group in 2005.

A new hybrid release, 8922YG1 from Garst, had exceptional milk yields in the 86-90-day RM group in 2005 (Table 2). Hybrids HT7220 BT/RR2 from Hytest and HL S034 from Hyland had high milk yields in the 86-90 day RM group for the third or fourth consecutive year in 2005. Also, a new hybrid, N34-F1, from Northrup King had high milk yields in 2005 because of high milk/ton values.

Some outstanding new hybrid as well as older hybrids had exceptional milk yields in the 91-95 day RM group in 2005 (Table 2). The new hybrids, TNT-92RR2 from Hytest, DG 53P30 from UAP, and T23326 from Mycogen, had high milk yields because of high milk/ton values in 2005. The hybrids TA4010F from T.A. Seeds and 3030Bt from Northrup King continued to have exceptional milk yields in 2005. Also, DKC 42-95 from DeKalb once again had high milk/ton values in the 91-95 day RM group in 2005.

The hybrid 8787 YG1 from Garst for the second consecutive year had high milk yields in the 96-100 day RM group in 2005 (Table 2). Also, 470RR from Doebler's also had excellent milk yields in the 96-100 day RM group in 2005.

Conclusion

Hybrid selection is one of the most important management practices that affect corn silage yield and quality. Dairy producers should make an informed management decision, based on actual silage yield and quality data from New York, before selecting hybrids for the coming year. We urge seed companies to enter their hybrids in our corn silage hybrid testing program so New York dairy producers can make informed decisions in selecting their hybrids.

Table 1. Recommended 95-115-day corn silage hybrids in New York based on tests in Cayuga Co. (Aurora Research Farm) and Livingston Co. (Southview Farms).					
Brand	Hybrid	Comparative Silage Yield	Comparative Milk/Ton	Comparative Milk Yield	Years in Test
-----%-----					no.
<u>95-100 day Relative Maturity</u>					
Pioneer	37K84	107	102	108	2
FS Seeds	4955XRR	108	101	108	1
LICA	964L	103	101	104	1
Hyland	HL S047	101	102	103	3
Pioneer	38H67	100	103	103	2
Chemgro	5424	105	98	102	3
Hyland	HL S042	100	102	101	1
<u>101-105 day Relative Maturity</u>					
T.A. Seeds	TA557-00F	110	101	111	3
NK	N48-L4	104	102	106	2
DeKalb	DKC54-51 (YGCB)	105	100	104	2
Hyland	HL S058	106	96	103	3
Hystest	HT7428BT/RR	100	102	101	1
Pioneer	35A30	101	101	101	1
<u>106-110 day Relative Maturity</u>					
Pioneer	34A86	113	102	115	1
Pioneer	34B23	106	103	107	6
Hyland	HL S067	105	102	107	5
UAP	DG 5324Bt	102	103	107	1
Doebler's	620	105	99	103	1
GH	H-8562	102	100	101	3
DeKalb	DKC57-84 (YGCB)	102	100	101	3
<u>111-115 day Relative Maturity</u>					
Pioneer	34B39	103	104	107	1
Pioneer	31G66	108	100	106	2
Hystest	HT7749BT/RR2	107	99	105	1
GH	H-9493Bt	103	101	104	1
Pioneer	33D63	101	102	104	1
DeKalb	DKC61-72(RR2)	98	105	103	1
Asgrow	RX702RR2/YGCB	100	102	103	1
Heartland	TH-310	100	101	101	1

Table 2. Recommended 75-100-day corn silage hybrids in Northern NY based on tests in St. Lawrence Co. (Greenwood Farms) and Clinton Co. (Miner Institute).

Brand	Hybrid	Comparative Silage Yield	Comparative Milk/Ton	Comparative Milk Yield	Years in Test
-----%-----					
<u>75-85 day Relative Maturity</u>					
Hytest	HT7060Bt/RR2	103	104	104	2
Hyland	HL SR22	106	98	104	1
Hyland	HL S014	102	100	102	4
Hyland	HL S009	100	101	101	3
Hyland	HL S011	102	99	101	3
<u>86-90 day Relative Maturity</u>					
Garst	8922YG1	110	103	112	1
Hytest	HT7220Bt/RR2	108	100	107	3
Hyland	HL S034	108	99	106	4
NK	N34-F1	100	102	102	1
<u>91-95 day Relative Maturity</u>					
Hytest	TNT-92RR2	103	105	107	1
UAP	DG 53P30	100	105	104	1
Mycogen	T23326	100	102	103	1
T.A. Seeds	TA4010F	101	103	103	3
NK	3030Bt	101	103	102	6
DeKalb	DKC42-95(RR2/YGCB)	100	102	102	3
NK	N33-H6	106	97	102	3
Pioneer	38B85	103	99	102	1
<u>96-100 day Relative Maturity</u>					
Garst	8787YG1	111	100	110	2
Doebler's	470RR	107	97	103	1