

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 more 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.

MILK2006, the updated MILK2000 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. MILK2006 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 greater than 100 (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 environments.**

Central/Western NY

New hybrid releases, TMF2T497 from Mycogen, 8688RR from Garst and 470RR from Doebler's yielded exceptionally well in the 95-100-day RM group in 2006 (Table 1). Hybrids 37K84 from Pioneer, 4955XRR from FS Seeds, HL S047 from Hyland and 964L from LICA performed very well in the 95-100 day RM group as they had in previous years. New hybrid releases that had high milk/ton values in this maturity group in 2006 include TMF2N422 from Mycogen and 946LRR from LICA.

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>					
Mycogen	TMF2T497	110	100	109	1
Garst	8688RR	108	101	109	1
Pioneer	37K84	106	101	106	3

Doebler's	470RR	108	98	106	1
FS Seeds	4955XRR	105	101	105	2
Mycogen	TMF2N422	102	102	104	1
Hyland	HL S047	101	102	103	4
LICA	946LRR	100	102	102	1
LICA	964L	101	101	101	2
<u>101-105 day Relative Maturity</u>					
Garst	8693CB/LL	109	103	113	1
T.A. Seeds	TA557-00F	109	101	110	4
DEKALB	DKC55-12	107	102	109	1
NK	N48-R3	106	102	108	1
Pioneer	35A30	103	102	104	2
NK	N48-L4	102	101	104	3
LICA	307	103	101	104	1
Hyland	HL S058	105	97	102	4
Doebler's	537RB	101	100	101	1
<u>106-110 day Relative Maturity</u>					
Pioneer	34A86	110	101	111	2
Pioneer	34B23	105	103	107	7
Hyland	HL S067	107	100	106	6
Doebler's	620	107	100	106	2
Garst	8313CB/LL	102	101	103	1
Pioneer	34A16	99	104	103	1
Asgrow	RX655RR2	102	99	101	1
<u>111-115 day Relative Maturity</u>					
Pioneer	34B39	105	102	108	2
Pioneer	33H26	108	101	108	1
Garst	8380IT	103	103	106	1
T.A. Seeds	TA689-12F	106	100	106	1
Laser	L-9H93Bt	103	101	104	2
Pioneer	34B24	104	100	104	1
Dyna-Gro	57P12	104	101	103	1

New hybrid releases in the 101-105 RM group that performed exceptionally well in both yield and quality in 2006 include 8693CB/LL from Garst, DKC55-12 from DEKALB, and N48-R3 from Northrup King. The hybrid TA557-00F performed exceptionally well in both yield and quality for the fourth consecutive year as did Pioneer 3530 for the second consecutive year in the 101-105 day RM group. New hybrid releases that also performed well in this maturity group in 2005 include 307 from LICA and 537RB from Doebler's.

The hybrids 34A86 from Pioneer and 620 from Doebler's had outstanding yields in the 106-100 day RM group in 2006. The hybrids Pioneer 34B23 from Pioneer and HLS 067 from Hyland continued to have high milk yields, despite being in the test for 7 and 6 years, respectively. New hybrid releases that performed well in the 106-110 day RM group in 2006 include 34A16 from Pioneer because of its high milk/ton value and 8313CB/LL from Garst and RX655RR2 from Asgrow because of high yields.

The hybrid 34B39 from Pioneer had its second consecutive outstanding year in both yield and quality in the 111-115 day RM group in 2006 (Table 1). Four new hybrid releases in the 111-115 day RM group, including 33H26 from Pioneer, 8380IT from Garst, TA689-12F from T.A. Seeds, 34B24 from Pioneer, and 57P12 from Dyna-Gro also had outstanding milk yields in 2006. The hybrid L-9H93BT from Golden Harvest also had excellent yield and quality in 2006.

Northern New York

The 75-day hybrid HL S011 had excellent yield and the 80-day hybrid HL SR21 from Hyland had excellent milk/ton values in the 75-85 day RM group in 2006 (Table 2). The 85-day hybrid 377BWR from Doebler's yielded the highest in the 75-85-day RM group in 2006.

A new hybrid release, TMF2L412 from Mycogen, had exceptional milk yields in the 86-90-day RM group in 2006 (Table 2). Hybrids HT7220 BT/RR2 from Hytest and HL S034 from Hyland continued to have high milk yields in the 86-90 day RM group for the fourth and fifth consecutive years, respectively. Also, N29-A2, from Northrup King had exceptionally high milk/ton values in 2006 for the second consecutive year in the 86-90 day RM group. A new NK release, N31-P2, had high milk yields did in 2006 and 8922YG1/RR from Garst.

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>						
Doebler's	377BWR	106	100	106	1	
Hyland	HL S011	105	99	103	4	
Hyland	HL SR21	98	103	101	1	
<u>86-90 day Relative Maturity</u>						
Mycogen	TMF2L412	110	101	111	1	
Hytest	HT7220BT/RR2	109	100	109	4	
Hyland	HL S034	107	100	106	5	
NK	N29-A2	100	104	104	2	
NK	N31-P2	104	99	102	1	
Garst	8922YG1/RR	99	102	101	2	
<u>91-95 day Relative Maturity</u>						
LICA	946LRR	109	102	111	1	
Doebler's	468RB	112	98	110	1	
NK	N39-Q1	108	100	107	1	
Hytest	TNT-92CRW/RR2	102	103	105	2	
FS Seeds	4453XRR	106	99	104	2	
Chemgro	5434RR	105	100	104	1	
NK	N33-H6	106	98	103	4	
T.A. Seeds	TA450-11	102	100	102	1	
<u>96-100 day Relative Maturity</u>						
LICA	964L	104	101	104	1	
Hytest	7435BT/RR2	101	100	101	1	

Some new hybrid releases as well as older hybrids had exceptional milk yields in the 91-95 day RM group in 2006 (Table 2). The new hybrids, 946LRR from LICA, 468RB from Doebler's, and N39-Q1 from NK, had very high milk yields in 2006. The hybrids TNT-92CRW/RR2 from Hytest, and 4453XRR from FS Seeds had exceptional milk yields for the second consecutive year in 2006. New hybrid releases, 5434RR from Chemgro and TA450-11 from T.A. Seeds, also had high milk yields in the 91-95 day RM group in 2006.

The new hybrid releases, 964L from LICA and 7435BT/RR2 from Hytest, had high milk yields in the 96-100 day RM group in Northern New York in 2006. Both hybrids had above-average yields and 964L also had above-average milk/ton values.

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.