

Agronomic Directions

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When to Consider Switching Corn Maturities

Spring 2014 has been a challenge with the mix of wet, cold days across our territory. Next week's weather forecast is looking better with temperatures reaching back up into the 70's with some sun!

Last week's USDA corn planting progress report had Iowa at 70%, Illinois at 78%, and Wisconsin at 20% complete. These numbers are still ahead of last year's averages as of May 11th. We can plant a large amount of corn in very few days, we've seen that the past couple of years. However, the calendar date reads May 15th and we've had inquiries regarding when to switch hybrids and maturities.

Research shows corn needs about 125 GDDs to emerge. If soil temperatures stay around 50°F corn emergence may take three weeks and only one week to emerge if daytime soil temps remain around 70°F. With that being said, research also shows that corn planted after May 1st, can adapt its GDD needs for growth and maturity. For every day after May 1st that planting occurs, corn can require 6.8 GDD less to reach physiological maturity (black layer). For example, if you can plant corn this Saturday, May 17th, it would require about 109 fewer GDD's to reach black layer. This is because of the warmer temperatures for emergence and following emergence, compared to early spring's cooler temps.

In general, a corn maturity switch doesn't need to be considered until the 20-25th of May. We want to caution switching too early so that we don't 'cap' our yield potential.

According to Palle Pedersen, a general rule of thumb for planting is, after May 25th, select a hybrid that matures 5 days earlier than a full season hybrid in your area. If planting is delayed another 7 days beyond that, select a hybrid that matures another 5 days earlier than the previous one.

If you're already pushing maturities for your area with your hybrid selection, you may need to consider switching maturities closer to May 20th.

Be certain to discuss drydown rates with your Cornelius Seed district sales manager or sales representative, if you switch to earlier maturities. Some later season corn can actually beat some earlier ones to black layer, at which some hybrids drydown differently than others. It's important to know what you're doing when you switch hybrids to gain yield and drydown status at harvest.

2014 Cornelius Seed Corn Hybrids

94-96 RM	96-98 RM	98-100 RM	100-102 RM	102-104 RM
C265SS-RIB	C277DP-RIB	C284DP-RIB	C302DP-RIB	C303SS-RIB
C273VT3	C281SS-RIB	C290XTLL	C319VT3	C339VT3
C274RR	C282	C292LL	C325SS-RIB	C344DP-RIB
C275RR	C285VT3P-RIB	C296	C341	C344VT3P-RIB
C275VT3P-RIB	C297GTA	C299SS-RIB	C344RR	WX376
		C307RR	C374	C423GT
		C307VT3P-RIB		C428
		C310VT3		C428LL
		C317XTLLRR		C462-3000GT

104-106 RM	106-108 RM	108-110 RM	110-112 RM	112-113 RM
C424VT3P-RIB	C454LL	C534LL	C602SS-RIB	C728RR
C428XTLL	C454XTLL	C539GT	C628RR	C728VT3P-RIB
C428XTLLRR	C510	C576SS-RIB	C628DP-RIB	C733SS-RIB
C438SS-RIB	C533SS-RIB	C594VT3P-RIB	C628VT3P-RIB	
C447RR	C547VT3	C602	C655	
C447VT3	C574RR	C619XTLL	C655-3000GT	
C459SS-RIB	C574DP-RIB			
C462LL	C574SS-RIB			

New, improved hybrids introduced for planting 2014 are highlighted in yellow.

Record Acres Planted in 7 Days!

According to the latest USDA report, Iowa farmers planted around 6.6 million acres in just seven days last week!