

ONTARIO CORN COMMITTEE

The ONTARIO CORN COMMITTEE is made up of representatives of Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the University of Guelph, the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, the Grain Farmers of Ontario, the Seed Corn Growers of Ontario and the Canadian Seed Trade Association. Tests are conducted each year by the following cooperating agencies: Ridgetown Campus, University of Guelph, Ridgetown; Plant Agriculture Department, University of Guelph; Kemptville Campus, University of Guelph, Kemptville; and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at Ottawa.

TESTING METHODS

Hybrids entered in the Hybrid Corn Performance Trials are selected by the seed companies. A testing fee is charged per hybrid per replication. A hybrid must be entered in all trials within a table.

In each trial, hybrids are replicated in a suitable experimental design. Trials are machine planted with an excess of seed and thinned at an early growth stage to obtain a uniform population. A row width of 30 inches is used in all trials. Plots consist of four rows of which the middle two rows are harvested for yield. Fertilizer rates may be higher than those recommended by OMAFRA to compensate for any variability in soil nutrient supply.

Most of the hybrids entered in the trials were treated with a seed treatment to control soil insects. Hybrids that were not treated with are not identified in the report. There was no significant damage from soil insects at any of the locations.

To determine the percentage of lodged plant, a count is made, immediately before harvest, of all plants broken below the ear and all plants which are leaning such that the ear is in the adjacent row or is otherwise unharvestable.

The moisture percentage of the grain is measured at harvest time. The weight of grain harvested from each plot is determined and the yield of shelled corn is calculated at 15% moisture. Test weights are recorded either during harvest, using combine-mounted monitoring equipment, or in the laboratory, using procedures recommended by the Canada Grain Commission.

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