

2025 ONTARIO CORN HYBRID DON SCREENING TRIAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 2025 Ontario corn hybrid DON screening trial report is available on the GoCrops.ca at <https://corn.gocrops.ca/>

The Ontario Corn Committee initiated DON screening trials for corn hybrids in 2019 in response to elevated DON levels observed in the 2018 corn crop. Hybrid selection is the most influential factor for reducing DON risk. For years, Ontario growers have sought DON hybrid testing to mitigate DON risks through informed hybrid selection and management strategies. This screening initiative addresses this long-standing need, providing growers with valuable data to make more informed decisions in their corn production practices.

Starting in 2019, the Ontario Corn Committee (OCC) started to refine protocols for testing hybrid sensitivity to DON accumulation with confidence-based risk assessment. This report provides a risk assessment of hybrids entered in the 2025 trials, along with a multi-year assessment on the same hybrids if data were available.

Hybrids were entered voluntarily by seed companies and all hybrids are compared against “high and low check” hybrids known to be at a high or low risk, respectively, to Gibberella Ear Rot and DON accumulation. Hybrid results are displayed as an index value relative to the mean of the high-check hybrids, with statistical inferences. For the first time this year, we also compare hybrids to indicate whether they are statistically different from the low checks. These data serve as a relative risk assessment of hybrids that can be used with other information sources (e.g., seed company information, field trial results, etc.) to improve hybrid decisions.

A sincere thank you to Dr. Dave Hooker and Dr. Gursahib Singh, University of Guelph, and Albert Tenuta, OMAFA, for leading this project, and to Ridgetown Campus Technician Carlene Scott for her leadership and work in the field during the inoculation process and for processing samples. We also thank the Mycotoxin Lab on Ridgetown Campus for DON analysis, and to corn hybrid seed companies for voluntarily participating in this trial. Thanks to those who have provided financial support to allow these trials to be conducted (OMAFA, Canadian Agricultural Partnership and Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, Grain Farmers of Ontario, Greenfield Ethanol, Ingredion, Ontario Pork, Suncor, Alco Energy Canada and participating seed companies including CROPLAN, DeDell, Dekalb, Maizex, NK Brand, Pioneer, Corteva Agriscience, and Pride Seeds).

About the Ontario Corn Committee

The Ontario Corn Committee is made up of representatives from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness; University of Guelph; Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association; Grain Farmers of Ontario; Ontario Agri Business Association; Ontario Certified Crop Advisors and Seeds Canada. Hybrid tests are conducted each year by the following cooperating agencies: University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus; University of Guelph Plant Agriculture Department; University of Guelph, Winchester Research Station; Kent Ag Research Inc.; and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa).

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