

**CROPS**

# MU hybrid trials offer yield data

By JERILYN JOHNSON

**Key Points**

- Spring rains hampered grain sorghum performance.
- Southeast trial produced some excellent yields.
- Grain sorghum acres lag behind other crops in Missouri.



**G**RAIN sorghum seems to be the forgotten crop in Missouri, as the number of acres remains very low when compared with other grain crops. The Missouri Agricultural Statistics Office estimates only about 105,000 acres were grown here this year with a projected statewide yield of 103 bushels per acre.

"Yields from our experiments were higher than that," says Howard Mason, University of Missouri crop variety testing research specialist, "but we do pick the best part of the field to plant the test, keep it weed-free, apply plenty of fertilizer and try to be timely with all phases of growing the sorghum. This year, the average yield for 32 hybrids tested at six locations was 122 bushels per acre."

Mason points out that weather offered challenges, as spring rains made it hard to get the crop in the ground and off to a good start. The Webb City location was not planted because of non-stop rain that continued well into July.

"Jasper County recorded 11.8 inches of precipitation for the month of June alone," Mason says. "Hughesville received 14.9 inches of rain during May and June, and the test there suffered from poor stands and increased lodging. The remaining experiments performed well in spite of the weather and produced yields somewhat above normal."

Yields in the Southeast Grain Sorghum Test averaged 138.2 bushels per acre, with a

Pioneer 84G62 number coming in with the top yield for the trial at 153.9 bushels.

An NC+ 7R34 variety topped the Central/West region with a 134.5-bushels-per-acre yield, and the test averaged 114.1 bushels per acre. Jasper County recorded 30.4 inches of rainfall for the months of May through September, which is 7.8 inches above normal for the period. Yields at the other four Central/West locations were average or below average, partly because of poor stands and increased lodging.

The tables below list the top 10 hybrids for each region. "The information provided in this report is a good source of unbiased yield data," Mason adds. "Producers can increase the likelihood of selecting a top-yielding hybrid for next year by using multiple-location or multiple-year data."

**MU test objective**

The 2008 trials will mark the 50th year of grain sorghum testing for MU Variety Testing. "We will continue to serve producers throughout the Midwest by providing grain sorghum yield information as long as companies continue to produce new hybrids and evaluate existing ones," Mason says.

This report is a contribution of the Division of Plant Science in the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. The work is supported by fees paid by the companies that submit hybrids for evaluation.

"To select a commercial hybrid intelligently, producers need a reliable, unbiased, up-to-date source of information that will permit valid comparisons among available hybrids," Mason says. "The objective of the MU performance-testing program is to provide this information. The tests are conducted under as uniform conditions as possible. Small plots are used to reduce the chance of soil and climatic variations occurring from one plot to another. Results obtained should aid the individual grower in judging the relative merits of many of the commercial grain sorghum hybrids available in Missouri today."

For further location data and a description of the program, visit the Web site [agebb.missouri.edu/cropper/vartest](http://agebb.missouri.edu/cropper/vartest), or contact your local Extension office for a free copy of the report.

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### Southeast Grain Sorghum Test

Brand/Hybrid	Mean
Pioneer 84G62	153.9**
Garst 5464	149.9*
Dekalb DKS53-67	145.6*
Dyna-Go GX07467	143.9
Dyna-Gro GX07163	143.1
Golden World GWX1445	142.7
FFR 322	142.6
Crow's 590	142.5
FFR X358	142.2
Dekalb DK44	141.6
<b>TEST AVERAGE</b>	<b>138.2</b>
LSD at 0.10	9.6
CV %	6.9

\*\* Highest-yielding hybrid in the test.

\* Yield not significantly less than the highest-yielding hybrid in the test.

LSD = least significant difference  
CV% = coefficient of variation percentage

### Central/West Grain Sorghum Test

Brand/Hybrid	Mean
NC+ 7R34	134.5**
Dekalb DKS53-67	129.8*
Dyna-Gro GX06170	122.1
Dyna-Gro GX06750	122.0
Dyna-Gro GX07763	121.1
Dekalb DKS54-00	115.9
Dyna-Gro 772B	115.4
Pioneer 84G62	115.1
Dekalb DKS36-16	113.5
Garst 5464	112.9
<b>TEST AVERAGE</b>	<b>114.1</b>
LSD at 0.10	6.3
CV %	10.0

\*\* Highest-yielding hybrid in the test.

\* Yield not significantly less than the highest-yielding hybrid in the test.

LSD = least significant difference  
CV% = coefficient of variation percentage