EVALUATION OF GRAIN SORGHUM HYBRIDS FOR YIELD POTENTIAL AND PROFITABILITY

Duane Kainer, Cooperator (2007)
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SUMMARY:

In an evaluation of yield variability ten grain sorghum hybrids planted March 2, 2007, the crop was grown to harvest, visually evaluated for maturity but was never harvested due to over 25 inches of rain that fell throughout the harvest season.

OBJECTIVE:

To determine the yield potential of the top grain sorghum hybrids offered by area seed companies. This demonstration will provide producers with research information on all major hybrids under uniform situations comparing locally and in a standardized grain sorghum demonstration in the Coastal Bend Extension District 11.

MATERIALS and METHODS:

Ten grain sorghum hybrids were planted March 2, 2007 with a check hybrid planted three times throughout the field to adjust for field variance with accuracy testing. Six rows of each hybrid were planted on 38-inch centers with a John Deere MaxEmerge Plus planter. The previous crop was corn.

Fertilizer applied included 550 lbs/acre of 21-7-3-2s prior to planting. A starter fertilizer of 45 lbs/ac of 4-13-0+20 oz/ac of 10% Tracite Chelated Zinc was applied at planting. Insecticide applied included 0.8 oz/ac Mustang Max on a 20 inch band. The planting rate was calibrated at 77,000 seeds per acre. Herbicides included 1 qt/ac of Atrazine broadcasted and 1 qt/ac of Lasso plus 1/2 pt/ac Atrazine 20 inch banded.

To control sorghum midge, the crop was sprayed on May 30, 2007 with MustangMax at the rate of one gallon per 100 acres (1.28 oz/ac plus 0.25% of Penetrator Plus surfactant.

Yields were visually evaluated for maturity on May 18, 2007.

RESULTS and DISCUSSIONS:

The hybrids were evaluated on May 18, 2007 by Stephen Biles, Extension Agent - IPM, noting plant maturity stage. Due to over 25 inches of rain during the harvest season, the crop sprouted in the head, turning moldy and was unsalvageable.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Appreciation is expressed to contributing seed companies, Duane Kainer, cooperator and Jim Moore, volunteer who assisted in planting.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE:

Trade names of commercial products used in this report are included only for better understanding and clarity. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M University System is implied. Readers should realize that results from one experiment do not represent conclusive evidence that the same response would occur where conditions vary.

Table 1. Evaluation of grain sorghum hybrids. Duane Kainer, Cooperator, Victoria County, TX 2007.

Seed Company	Hybrid	Evaluation 5/18/07
Sorghum Partners	NK7829 (Ck)	Head just emerging
NC+	8R18	Top 1/3
B-H Genetics	5533	Mid 1/3
DeKalb	S5400	Top 1/3
Sorghum Partners	NK7829 (Ck)	Head just emerging
Triumph	TR463	Top 1/3
Golden Acres	3552	Top 1/3
Asgrow	A571	Top 1/3
Sorghum Partners	NK7829 (Ck)	Head just emerging
Pioneer	84G62	Top 1/3
Pioneer	84G50	Bot 1/3
Garst	5464	Top 1/3
Sorghum Partners	NK7829 (Ck)	Head just emerging