

EVALUATION OF GRAIN SORGHUM HYBRIDS FOR YIELD POTENTIAL AND PROFITABILITY

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SUMMARY:

Nine grain sorghum hybrids planted on March 24, 2008 yielded from 4031 - 5310 pounds per acre. At the 2008 average grain sorghum harvest market price of \$9.04/cwt, the grain sorghum hybrids ranged in value from \$364 - 480 per acre. Selecting from the top hybrids could potentially net over \$100 more per acre over other hybrids.

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:

Nine grain sorghum hybrids were planted March 24, 2008 replicating them twice within the demonstration. Twelve 38 inch rows of each hybrid was planted with a John Deere MaxEmerge 7300 planter. The planting rate was calibrated at 85,000 seeds per acre. The previous crop was corn.

Fertilizer applied included 475 lbs/acre of 22-6-2-2s prior to planting. Insecticide applied included 0.8 oz/ac Mustang Max on a band plus the seed company applied Poncho, Cruiser or Gaucho seed treatment. Herbicide applied included 1 qt/ac of Expert banded over the row.

Harvested was on July 19, 2008 with a commercial combine. Yields were adjusted to 14 percent moisture.

RESULTS and DISCUSSIONS:

The field was clean of weeds and progressed well in spite of the dry conditions. Only 654 feet of the 1767 feet from each of the 12 row plots was harvested for a plot harvest size of 0.57 acre each. Harvest yields ranged from 4031 - 5310 pounds per acre. Bushel weight varied from 57 – 60 pounds per bushel and grain moisture was constant except for one hybrid.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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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. Marshall Lange, Cooperator, Victoria County, TX 2008.

Hybrid	Bushel Weight	Moisture % ^{1/}	Adjusted Yield Lbs/A ^{2/}	Crop Value \$/A ^{3/}
Pioneer 83G19	60	15	5310	480
Asgrow A571	59	13	5210	471
B-H Genetics 5522	59	15	5119	463
DynaGro DG772B	58	15	5095	461
DeKalb DKS54-00	57	15	5067	458
NC+ 8R18	59	15	5020	454
Garst 5401	59	15	4868	440
Sorghum Partners NK7829	58	15	4264	385
Sorghum Partners NK8831	58	15	4031	364
Mean	58.6	14.8	4887	442

^{1/} Adjusted to 14 percent moisture.

^{2/} average of two replications; no accuracy checking

^{3/} Crop value based on \$9.04/cwt. crop average during harvest season.