Albert Lea Seed

The Cultivator

April 2016

Cultivating soil, knowledge, relationships

2015 VIKING CORN YIELD RESULTS

1st Place: D91-06RL, 256.5 bu/A, Martin County Corn Growers

1st Place: D52-05RL, 228.4 bu/A, Brown County Corn Growers

2nd Place: D34-95RL, 220 bu/A, U of M Central

2nd Place: D71-00RL, 213.9 bu/A, ISU Crop Testing, Nashua

3rd Place: T51-01R, 216.3 bu/A, Dakota/Rice County Corn Growers

4th Place: T51-01R, 260.7 bu/A, WISO FIRST Trials, Arlington

4th Place: A81-07R, 243 bu/A, U of M South, Late R.M.

1st Place: 49-09N, 242.7 bu/A, IANC FIRST Trials, Iowa Falls

2nd Place: 42-92N, 207 bu/A, U of M North

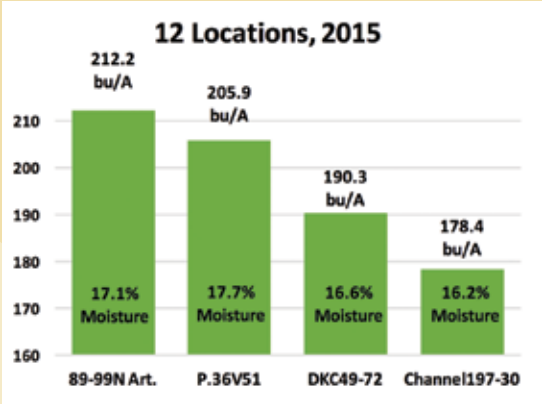
3rd Place: 72-04N, 217.9 bu/A, Freeborn County, Minn.

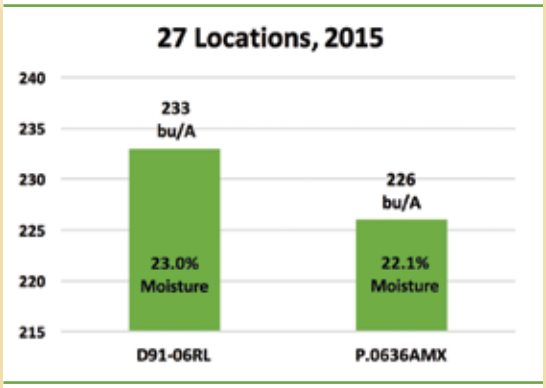
5th Place: 89-99N Art, 208.5 bu/A, IANO FIRST Trials, Lu Verne

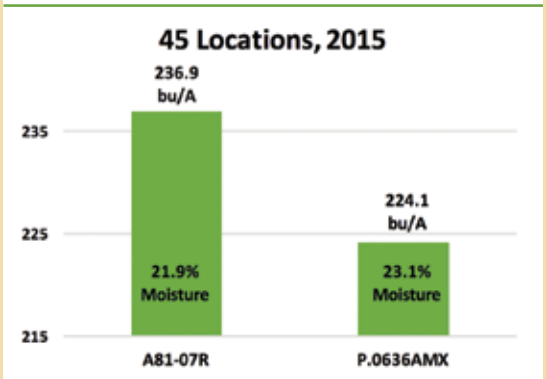
1st Place: 60-01N, 219.6 bu/A, Viking Seed Trials, 12 Location Trait Test

3rd Place: 58-98N, 207.1 bu/A, Viking Seed Trials, 12 Location Conventional Test

1st Place: 89-99N Art, 212.2 bu/A, Viking Seed Trials, 12 Location Conventional Test







Mention this newsletter and receive an additional $20 off per unit of C44-95R or 30-06N.

GROWER TESTIMONIALS:

TRIMONT, MINNESOTA: "Viking corn did very well. I had it up north on a more variable, gravelly farm, and it did over 200 bushels per acre across the farm. And it came out dry."

ESTHERVILLE, IOWA: "63-05N was my best corn, averaging over 200 bushels per acre. 60-01N was excellent. My neighbor ran out of corn and planted some out of my shed, and now he and his dad want to buy a bunch for next year. I had one field where it averaged 197 bushels per acre and it was uniform across the entire field. I have never seen that on that field before."

SLEEPY EYE, MINNESOTA: "89-99N Art was put on my light ground—it's sand, similar to beach sand. The hybrid yielded 166 bushels per acre with no irrigation. I usually get 80-90 bushels per acre if I'm lucky."

DUNDAS, MINNESOTA: Commenting on 51-95N, "I'm amazed with this corn. It's standing well even after the wind we had and it's easy to combine. The yield monitor is reading 224-226 bushels per acre at 15.8-16.5 percent moisture."

Check out our new website at *www.alseed.com*.

2015 VIKING SOYBEAN YIELD RESULTS

1st Place: 1776R2N, 69.1 bu/A, MNSC FIRST Trials, Tracy

1st Place: 2055R2N, 70.3 bu/A, MNSO FIRST Trials, Kasson

2nd Place, 2301R2N, 70.1 bu/A, Martin County Soybean Growers

3rd Place, 2055R2N, 67.7 bu/A, MNSO FIRST Trials, Summary

1st Place, 2282R2N, 59.9 bu/A, WISO FIRST Trials, Watertown

3rd Place, 2301R2N, 68.6 bu/A, SDSE FIRST Trials, Chancellor

2nd Place, 1909R2N, 84.7 bu/A, U of M Soybean Trials, Southern Locations

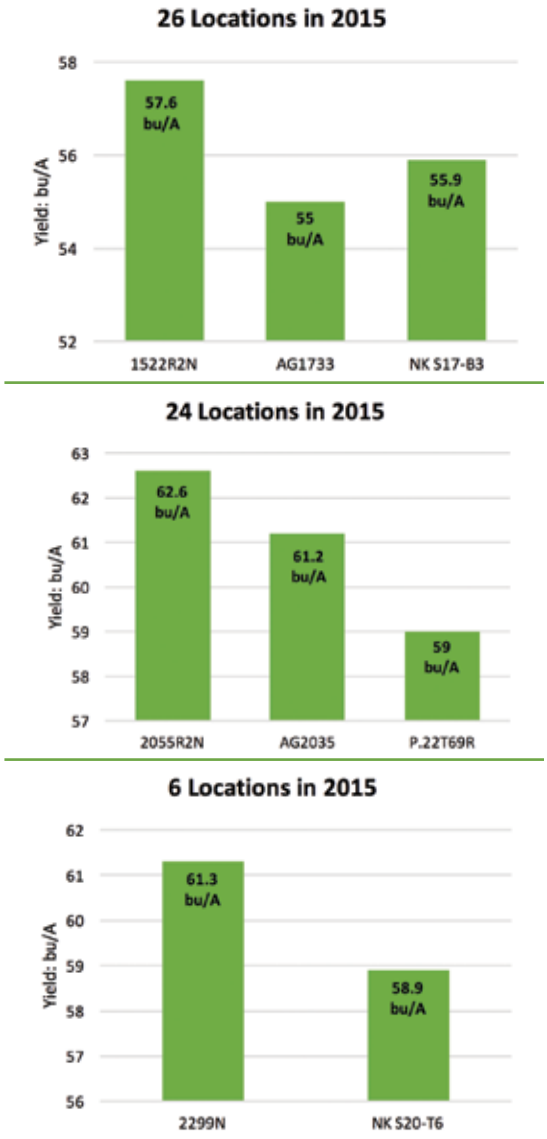
4th Place, 2301R2N, 71.6 bu/A, ISU Crop Testing, Nashua

1st Place, 1776R2N, 67.5 bu/A, Farm Test Plot, Wells, Minn.

3rd Place, 2282R2N, 65.7 bu/A, Farm Test Plot, Gordonsville, Minn.

1st Place, 1522R2N, 67.3 bu/A, Viking Seed Testing, Austin, Minn.

1st Place, 2299N, 61.3 bu/A, Viking Seed Testing, 6 Location Average



GROWER TESTIMONIALS:

NEW HAMPTON, IOWA: "The Viking 2000R2N was the best-yielding bean on my whole farm, and I bought beans from six different companies. They yielded 64 bushels per acre on average. I will definitely be ordering more of the 2000R2N for next year."

CALEDONIA, MINNESOTA: "I planted 2000R2N on second-year bean ground on May 11. They yielded between 66-68 bushels per acre and we were much dryer. We had less than 0.5 inches of rain over 30 days in the middle of the summer."

ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA: "My Viking 1522R2N beans had a reported 45 percent hail loss (according to the insurance adjuster) and they still went 50 bushels per acre. I am very happy with those beans."

ROUNDUP READY 2 XTEND™ SYSTEM UPDATE

(Viking 2099RXN and 2110RXN)

With China approving Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans, but the EPA still reviewing the herbicide developed for the production system, we've fielded questions about herbicide options for these soybeans, pending EPA label approval. At this point, the use of dicamba herbicides is not currently approved for in-crop use in Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans. Please review the weed control recommendations provided below, and discuss specific options and recommendations with us or your agronomist.

Weed Control Recommendations:

- Follow existing weed management practices for soybeans from the Roundup Ready PLUS® Crop Management Solutions platform:
  - Scout fields before and after each burndown and in-crop application.
  - Start clean with burndown or tillage*.
  - Use traditional residual herbicides with different effective sites of action pre- and post-emergence.
  - Use tank-mixes of products with multiple sites of action.
- Monsanto will update Roundup Ready PLUS weed management recommendations when product registrations are approved for commercial in-crop use.
- For more information on management recommendations and incentives, visit *roundupreadyplus.com*.

* Dicamba products currently registered for preplant burndown applications may be used in Roundup Ready® 2 Xtend Crop Systems consistent with product label directions, including plant-back restrictions.

WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER GROWING OATS THIS YEAR

By Mac Ehrhardt, Co-owner

There was a time when oats were a staple of almost every Midwestern crop rotation. In 1950, there were 6.5 million acres of oats planted in Iowa. In contrast, last year Iowa farmers sowed fewer than 50,000 acres. What changed in the ag landscape to cause all those oat acres to disappear?

The first, and largest, change was economic. As the government incentivized corn and bean production, farmers were able to make more money growing those crops. Seed companies followed the profits and concentrated their efforts on the big two. And animal agriculture moved from most farmers having a few hogs and cattle to fewer, more concentrated livestock operations. As oats fell out of favor, universities ended their oat breeding programs.

With all that said, this could actually be the time for oats to make a comeback—for a number of reasons.

Seeking an oat resurgence

Why be optimistic about oats? Well, the first reason is, Americans eat a fair amount of oatmeal, granola bars and multi-grain bread. At present, most of the oats we consume are shipped into the U.S. on rail from Canada. Those oats could be produced right here in the Midwest.

Even though we can grow oats, producers still need to make money with them. The first step in making that happen is to create a regional market, and that is already taking place.

Grain Millers, perhaps the largest miller of both conventional and organic oats, has made a commitment to source the oats for their plant in St. Ansgar, Iowa, from Minnesota, the Dakotas and Iowa. They are serious about this commitment.

So why should you go to the trouble of adding oats to your rotation? The answer is the same reason farmers stopped growing them in the first place—economics.

No, you won't make more money growing oats in one year compared to corn. But we can prove that you will make more over both three- and four-year periods by adding oats underseeded with clover or alfalfa to your corn and bean rotation than you will rotating corn and beans alone.

Research by Dr. Matt Liebman, the Henry A. Wallace Chair for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University, shows the bottom-line benefits. View his research at *bit.ly/1XSs30k*.

Whole rotation budgets, $/acre

	C-S (2-yr)	C-S-O/cl (3-yr)	C-S-O/alf-A (4-yr)
Revenue	725	645	680
Production costs	333	236	260
Labor	8	11	15
Land	256	256	256
Total Costs	597	503	531
Returns to Management	128	142	149

- This data is for 2008-2014.
- Corn and soybeans were produced using conventional herbicide management and no cultivation in each rotation.
- Corn in the 3-year and 4-year rotations received 7 tons/acre of manure. We included a cost for transporting and spreading the manure, but not for the material itself.

At Albert Lea Seed, we're working with Practical Farmers of Iowa and others to help you grow the best quality oats possible. Please give us a call or stop by the store, and let's talk oats.

COMMITTED TO MIDWESTERN OATS

By Jessie VanderPoel, Grain Millers

There is a lot to love about oats these days. You can't go to a restaurant that doesn't offer oats in some form or another. They're nutritious, naturally gluten-free and a great crop to have in your rotation from an environmental standpoint. It's a perfect, positive storm.

At Grain Millers, we mill both conventional and organic oats for the food industry. For many years, we've been sourcing our oats from Canada, largely because farmers in the Midwest simply weren't growing them anymore. But in the past few years, with the changing commodity markets and farmers taking a closer look at their farming systems, we've been able to source more oats locally—a company goal for Grain Millers.

American oats are typically higher in beta-glucans, the heart-healthy component. And, because fewer acres of barley and wheat are grown in Iowa and Minnesota than in Canada, there is less chance for cross contamination from a gluten-free standpoint. There is still work to do, however, as oats produced in the Midwest don't currently mill as well at their Canadian counterparts. But with South Dakota State University and the University of Wisconsin hiring oat breeders recently, we expect that to change.

GRAIN MILLERS

We've been working with Practical Farmers of Iowa, and companies like Albert Lea Seed and General Mills, to develop a market for oats that may not qualify as food grade. Our goal is to get more oats in swine, cattle and poultry diets.

We're committed to helping farmers produce high-quality, food-grade oats. We have two agronomists on staff specifically to answer questions about oat production. Practical Farmers and Albert Lea Seed are also great oat resources.

ALBERT LEA SEED
Since 1923

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APHANOMYCES: THE SILENT YIELD ROBBER IN ALFALFA

By Elia Romano

Are yields in your alfalfa fields lower than your expectations or maybe less than they have been in the past? Do you have areas in your field that are shorter and "pale green" or "yellow" looking? Have you ever dug roots in those areas and found that there are very few lateral roots and few or no nodules? Do you have springs in your hillsides or poorly drained soils? Have you noticed stunting and/or yellowing of your stand at establishment time? If you answered yes to any of these questions, there is a good chance that Aphanomyces root rot (ARR) is quietly stealing alfalfa tonnage right under your nose!

Unlike Phytophthora root rot, which severs the taproot and kills the plant, ARR affects the lateral root, causing stunted chlorotic plants that persist but have far less yield potential. The lateral roots are pruned and nodules are missing or damaged, causing poor nutrient uptake. It is primarily a seedling disease, although it can cause reduced yields in older stands. Seed treatments have little impact on ARR.

Aphanomyces is most severe in wet or flooded fields, and can be a problem on side-hills if there is a spring that keeps the soil saturated. Plants can recover when the soil dries out, but will not yield as well as unaffected, resistant plants.

Moving target

Like many fungal diseases, ARR has changed over time in response to management efforts. Within 10 years of its appearance in the mid-1980s, most new alfalfa varieties were resistant to Aphanomyces Race 1. However, in the early 1990s, Aphanomyces Race 2 was identified, and is now present throughout the Midwest.

Fortunately, breeding efforts have led to the development of alfalfa varieties with StandLife Genetics®. These high-yielding alfalfas have excellent resistance to Aphanomyces Race 2. Albert Lea seed offers three alfalfas with StandLife Genetics—Viking 390AP, Viking 357 and Foregrazer.

These alfalfas are the best weapons we have in the ongoing battle against ARR. New variants of Aphanomyces continue to be discovered, some of which are injurious to Race 2-resistant varieties. These are categorized as Race 3, and continued breeding for multi-race resistance will be required to stay ahead of this disease.

MEET THE BREEDER: STANDLIFE GENETICS®

As the alfalfa breeder for Legacy Seeds, Inc., Dave Huset heads the last independent alfalfa breeding program in the United States. His 36 years of experience breeding alfalfa for high digestibility and also Aphanomyces Race 2 are unmatched in the industry.

The results of Huset's program are a lineup of high-yielding varieties that have won numerous university yield trials across the Midwest and nation. His HD™ lineup consists of varieties that have significantly improved digestibility and milk production when compared to non-HD varieties. His StandLife Genetics program is ahead of the curve in performance in the tougher soils where Aphanomyces root rot Race 2 is present.