

Crop Management

Triumph Seed touts new corn hybrids

By ROBERT WAGGENER

TRIUMPH Seed Co. is confident it has new corn hybrids for eastern Colorado, southeastern Wyoming, western Nebraska and western Kansas that perform well in low-water conditions while still producing good crops under full irrigation.

"These lines will offer farmers another tool in their toolbox," says Triumph product marketing manager Ben Benton.

Benton, from Ralls, Texas, talked about hybrid testing that is taking place at the Irrigation Research Foundation near Yuma, Colo., during the annual IRF Farm Show in August.

In 2011, two lines — 1157 and 1217 — produced good results at IRF and other managed stress locations when tested against 28 other hybrids from Triumph and other companies under high-, medium- and low-water treatments.

"If you can give farmers a dryland hybrid that can produce something during the very dry years and also perform as well as other hybrids during wet years, then you give them something that helps reduce risk," Benton says.

And under irrigation, he adds, "if a farmer can make the same yield with less irrigation water, he's saving inputs."

Key Points

- New Triumph corn found to perform well under limited irrigation.
- The hybrids also produce good yields with high-water treatments.
- Triumph Seed says this will help farmers reduce risk.

Triumph is especially pleased with the performance of 1157, which has a maturity of 111 days.

"It's a hybrid that has the capability of producing very good yields under a well-managed irrigation and fertility situation," Benton says. "But where you have limited irrigation, it also has the capabilities of performing well. And if you grow dryland corn, it can yield something during the bad years while still producing good yields during better moisture years."

Consistent performer

Benton states that a number of farmers in eastern Colorado and western Kansas began planting 1157 last year.

"It proved to be very good in both farmers' fields and test plots in 2011, and it's looking good under tough conditions this year as long as it received some water at critical stages," he said in mid-August.



MAKING A POINT: Ben Benton of Triumph Seed Co. discusses a corn hybrid under an extreme-stress trial at the Irrigation Research Foundation near Yuma, Colo.

Benton says that 1157 and other drought-tolerant hybrids from both Triumph and other companies failed in many dryland fields in 2012 because of the extreme drought.

Among those testing 1157 is Fred Schields, who operates Schields Farm near Goodland, Kan., with his family.

"Most of our corn is dryland, and all of it failed this year," Schields says. "We had very little moisture and 36 days of triple-digit temperatures."

But Schields says he was pleased with 1157's performance under more favorable conditions last year.

"In the Triumph lineup, it performed the most consistently," he says.

IRF farm operations manager Dale Ebersole says that in the low-water test plots at IRF, irrigation was stopped for up to 18 days. During that period, temperatures hovered around 100 degrees F, and there was no rainfall.

"The low-water corn is looking real sad, but it's providing valuable information," Ebersole says.

Adds Charles Corey, IRF farm director:

"1157 stood out in the crowd."

Benton says that 1157 and 1217, along with other Triumph hybrids, are available with Refuge Advanced Powered by SmartStax technology. The proprietary seed blending process mixes 95% SmartStax seed with 5% agronomically comparable refuge seed.

He said it



"Triumph currently has 10 production varieties that fit our growing area well. The lines have offered real consistency in terms of stress tolerance and evenness in growing. Triumph is investing heavily to bring additional hybrids that will work well for the higher-altitude corn growers in western Nebraska, southeast Wyoming and northeast Colorado."

Laif Anderson,
diversified ag operator,
Pine Bluffs, Wyo.

Hybrid tests well under stresses

A 90-DAY Triumph Seed corn hybrid that tested well under both full and limited irrigation in southeast Wyoming is scheduled for release this fall, says Ben Benton, Triumph product marketing manager.

Benton says Triumph 9025 and similar hybrids are bred specifically for southeast Wyoming, western Nebraska and northeast Colorado. "The tough growing conditions of this region include higher altitude and other factors that call for earlier-season hybrids."

Triumph 9025 was among 15 hybrids from Triumph and other companies that were tested in 2011 at the University of Wyoming's James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center near Lingle. The 2012 plot included 66 hybrids for evaluation.

"We believe 9025 will do very well under different stresses as the season progresses," Benton says. "Compared to other Triumph hybrids and commercial checks, it did very well under both high stress and well watered."

Full-irrigation test plots at SAREC received 28 inches of water last year while limited-irrigation plots received 24.5 (this includes both irrigation and rainfall).

Benton says the limited-irrigation trials received no supplemental irrigation between July 9 and Aug. 9, 2011, but they received some rainfall (SAREC recorded 1.08 inches of rain in July and 1.11 in August).

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