

Insect and Disease Impact on Late Planted Corn. (A04-wright155645-Oral)

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Abstract:

Corn planted after mid-April is often damaged by insects or disease or both to the point that it is not economical to grow. Tropical germplasm has been evaluated for many years trying to find hybrids that could produce adequate silage and grain when planted late after winter grazing or vegetables. Most of the hybrids tested would not produce adequate grain or silage and silage digestibility was low. Bt hybrids developed in the U.S. could withstand insects but were taken out by disease and yields were low for both silage and grain and some hybrids were completely killed by disease when young. Recent hybrids developed from tropical germplasm with and without Bt have shown excellent grain and silage and yield with good digestibility. Non Bt hybrids gave good yield of both silage and grain for at least one month after the normal planting date, while Bt hybrids gave good yields for two months or longer after normal planting dates. These new hybrids have high potential for positive economic impact on farms in the southern part of the U.S.

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