Planting Time for Pearl Millet in Nebraska. (C03-mason092342-Poster)

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Abstract:

Pearl millet is a potential grain crop in the Great Plains, but few production practice recommendations have been determined. Optimal planting time for pearl millet relative to sorghum was determined in 1995 to 2001 in eastern Nebraska, and preliminary data was collected for western Nebraska. Measuring air or soil heat units gave better recommendations than using day of year or soil temperature. Pearl millet planting time between 239 and 501 air or 236 and 529 soil heat units optimized yield in eastern Nebraska, while in western Nebraska, where elevation limits season length, early planting at approximately 120 air or soil heat units was best. Pearl millet had a later planting time than sorghum even though pearl millet has a lower base temperature, and both crops had large planting time windows allowing flexibility in planting time without sacrificing yield. Pearl millet had 1.0 to 1.2 Mg ha-1 greater yield than sorghum when planted in late June or July, indicating that it has potential for replant or double crop situations.

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