Pearl Millet Row Spacing Recommendations for Nebraska. (C03-mason093224-Poster)

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Abstract:

The development of combine height pearl millet hybrids has increased the potential for this alternate grain crop in the Great Plains. Since these pearl millet hybrids have great tolerance to water stress and a short growing season, they may be adapted to low rainfall, low soil water holding capacity soils and/or short growing season situations. Few production practice recommendations exist, thus the response to decreasing row spacing was conducted with pearl millet and early-season sorghum hybrids from 1995 to 2001. Row spacing response was similar across locations, planting dates and the two crops. Narrowing rows from 76 to 38 cm increased the yield of both crops by 8 to 14% across the 15 year-location combinations in the study. Pearl millet and early-season sorghum producers should plant these crops in narrow rows to optimize grain yield production.

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