



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

News Release

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN 2020 HYBRID AND VARIETY TRIALS NOW AVAILABLE

As harvest wraps up planning is already underway for the 2021 growing season. Hybrid and variety selection is an important part of that process and early orders often come with price discounts which can result in some nice cost savings.

UW corn, soybean and small grain trials from the 2020 growing season have been released and links to them are as follows:

Corn: <http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/HT/>

Soybeans: <https://tinyurl.com/y3kpooz6>

Small Grains: <https://tinyurl.com/y4j8m36q>

Hybrid and variety selection is a huge step to next year's profitability. When looking at University corn hybrid trials it is not uncommon to see close to a 70 bushel per acre yield difference between the highest and the lowest yielding hybrids in many of the trials. At \$3.00 per bushel that is a \$210 difference per acre in gross revenue. With that in mind it is important to make sure that you do your homework to select hybrids and varieties that have a proven track record.

Selecting consistently high performing hybrids and varieties across a variety of locations is the best way to ensure the greatest likelihood of high performance from those crops on your farm in the upcoming growing season.

How do you identify CONSISTENT performers that will likely perform well for you? The key lies in looking for trials that evaluate hybrids over multiple locations. Multiple testing locations in a single year represent a number of possible weather patterns your farm may encounter in the future. Weather variability influences hybrid performance more than any other variable because weather interacts with most of the other yield limiting factors. If a hybrid performs CONSISTENTLY well over many sites (i.e., weather patterns), then it will likely perform well on your farm in the future.

Most university hybrid performance programs evaluate hybrids over multiple locations plus multiple years within select maturity zones. Several third-party testing groups also evaluate hybrids over multiple sites. Seed companies obviously evaluate hybrids over hundreds if not thousands of sites each year. Seek out summaries over many locations and avoid concentrating on single site results.

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