

ORNAMENTAL CORN GERMPLASM EVALUATION FOR SOUTHERN OHIO, 2003

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Ornamental corn represents a potential marketing opportunity because the Fall Decorations market ranks in the top five seasonal marketing opportunities. It is a specialty crop and growers should have their marketing plans in place prior to planting. This trial evaluated 15 new cultivars for their suitability in southern Ohio.

METHODS:

Corn was planted on 30" rows on June 23 (soil temp 83°F) at the Ohio State University South Centers (Piketon, OH) on a Doles silt loam (fine-silty, mixed, mesic, Aeric Fragiqualfs). Plot length was 15 feet and there were 4 rows per plot. Spacing in the row was 16 inches. The experimental design was a complete randomized block with three replications. Weeds were controlled with Degree Extra (acetochlor+atrazine) @1.5qt/acre and glyphosate @ 1 pt/acre applied preemergent. Triple 19 fertilizer was incorporated at 500#/acre prior to planting. The center two rows of each plot were harvested.

RESULTS:

variety	N	maturity	Mkt ears/acre-		length (in)		width (in)	
			Mean	SDev	Mean	Sdev	Mean	Sdev
RBV 100 SN	4	100	16666	7373	6.9	0.2	1.5	0.1
RBVX 1302 R	6	109	20467	5940	7.1	0.4	1.6	0.1
RBV 1013 R	4	108	23245	2996	7.3	0.4	1.5	0.1
RBV 1002 N	6	109	17543	8450	7.5	0.4	1.5	0.1
RBV 1009 N	4	110	18859	7630	7.6	0.3	1.6	0.1
RBV 1402 B	4	110	22368	4831	7.9	0.9	1.5	0.1
RBV 170 S	4	105	18859	6305	6.9	0.2	1.6	0.1
RBV 1500 R	6	115	15497	5702	7.0	0.4	1.7	0.1
RBV 1018	6	110	14035	5084	7.0	0.2	1.4	0.2
RBV 1017	6	108	14912	2418	6.9	0.4	1.5	0.1
RBV 1102	6	110	17251	4495	7.6	0.3	1.7	0.1
RBV 1004	6	98	17836	4889	7.4	0.7	1.6	0.1
RBVX-777x	4	100	14035	4297	6.2	1.3	1.5	0.1
RBVX-333x	6	110	21052	6839	7.7	0.5	1.6	0.1
PSF	4	109	24122	9962	7.8	0.6	1.7	0.1

N=number of reps

DISCUSSION:

There was no statistical difference among the new cultivars for yield. Statistically there were some slight differences for ear length and width, but nothing that would be directly

observable. It would be interesting to compare these to some of the standard varieties that are commercially available and plant at an earlier date. Unfortunately, this was an unusually cold and wet Spring and planting was delayed beyond the ideal planting date however we still managed to achieve the ideal maturity date for harvest.

It is important to know your market if you decide to plant ornamental corn. A sizable portion of the consumer market is interested in the miniature ears for table decorations.