



GROWING CORN IN SANDY SOILS



Photo 1. Corn growing in a sandy corn field.

- 1. Apply nitrogen in-season.** Apply nitrogen as close to when the crop needs as possible. Sidedressing or fertigation in season will help to reduce nitrogen loss.
- 2. Add a nitrification inhibitor.** Add a nitrification inhibitor if the application must be made early to avoid nitrogen losses through leaching and nitrification.
- 3. Apply Sulfur and Zinc.** Sulfur and zinc are also typically lower in concentration in sandy soils. Soil sample every 3 to 4 years to check for deficiencies.
- 4. Band on Potassium.** In very coarse soils potassium can be lost through leaching.
- 5. Schedule irrigation.** Irrigation scheduling can prevent over irrigating and losing nitrogen from leaching below the root zone.

Sandy soils require special management considerations to maintain high yields. Coarse textured soils will typically be lower in organic matter, require more water, and require a different nutrient management plan to meet or exceed yield goals. Below is a list of management strategies specific to sandy soils that can help to maintain and increase yields. Aside from special nutrient considerations certain hybrids perform better on these sandy soils (Table 1). Hoegemeyer evaluates hybrid performance on sandy soils each year. We use this experience to generate product ratings for suitability on sandy soils. If you have any questions regarding hybrid placement on sandy soils, please contact your local Hoegemeyer DSM or Agronomist.

Maturity	Highly Suitable (Rating 6 or better)	Suitable (Rating 5)
83		5303 Family
86		5631 Family / 5653 Family
90		6075 Family / 6072 Family
92		6281 Family
96	6695 Family	6620 Family
97	6703 Family	6798 Family
98	6813 Family	
99	6934 Family	
100	7088 Family	7061 Family
101	7102 Family	7166 Family / 7185 Family
102	7278 Family	
103		7316 Family
104	7460 GT	7422 Family / 7480 Family
105	7541 Family	7557 Family
106	7606 Family	7644 Family
107	7771 Family	
108	7818 Family	7876 Family
109	7998 Family / 7946 Family	
109 / 110	7900 Family / 8049 Family	8066 Family / 8091 Family
111 / 112	8122 Family / 8239 Family	8153 Family
112	8294 Family / 8255 Family	
113	8326 Family / 8363 Family	8359 Family / 8691 Family
114	8469 Family	8408 Family / 8345 Family
114 / 115	8572 Family	8414 Family / 8529 Family
115 / 116	8616 Family	8389 Family
117	8741 Family	

Table 1. Hoegemeyer products with above average yield in sandy soils. All sites tested were under full irrigation.