



GROWING CORN IN SANDY SOILS



Photo 1. Corn growing in a sandy corn field.

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.

- 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.

Maturity	Highly Suitable (Rating 6 or better)	Suitable (Rating 5)
91		6117 Family
93		6334 Family
95	6560 Family	
96		6620 Family / 6654 Family
98	6813 Family / 6850 Family	6894 Family
100	7088 Family	7027 Family / 7061 Family
101	7159 Family	7180 Family
102	7209 Family	7224 Family
103		7322 Family
104	7434 Family / 7402 Family	
105		7558 Family / 7583 Family
106	7692 Family	7644 Family
107	7760 Family	7772 Family
108	7818 Family / 7869 Family / 7886 Family	
109	7900 Family / 7946 Family / 7955 Family / 7990 Family	7921 Family
110	8009 Family / 8028 Family / 8050 Family / 8097 Family	8066 Family / 8073 Family / 8084 Family
111	8104 Family / 8188 Family	8140 Family / 8175 Family
112	8233 Family / 8239 Family / 8255 Family / 8268 Family	8217 Family
113	8338 Family / 8363 Family / 8371 Family / 8382 Family	8345 Family / 8348 Family
114	8414 Family / 8447 Family / 8490 Family	8494 Family
115	8511 Family / 8529 Family	8519 Family / 8556 Family
116	8636 Family	8680 Family
117	8750 Family	8707 Family

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