



# 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)
85		5515 Family
87		5770 Family
90		6072 Family
95	6560 Family	
96	6696 Family	6620 Family
97	6782 Family	
98	6813 Family / 6850 Family	
100	7088 Family	
101		7159 Family
102	7209 Family	7224 Family
104	7434 Family	7402 Family / 7480 Family
105		7558 Family / 7583 Family
106		7644 Family / 7692 Family
107	7760 Family	7774 Family
108	7818 Family / 7886 Family	
109	7900 Family / 7946 Family / 7955 Family	7990 Family
110	8049 Family	8066 Family / 8028 Family / 8073 Family
111		8104 Family / 8175 Family
112	8294 Family / 8255 Family / 8239 Family	8217 Family
113	8338 Family 8363 Family / 8382 Family	8367 Family / 8691 Family
114	8414 Family	8408 Family / 8345 Family / 8490 Family
115	8572 Family / 8529 Family	8556 Family / 8511 Family
116		8636 Family
117		8750 Family

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