

ONTARIO CORN COMMITTEE TO INITIATE VOLUNTARY HYBRID TESTING FOR SUSCEPTIBILITY TO DON

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 15, 2019

At its meeting on February 14, 2019, the Ontario Corn Committee (OCC) voted to conduct voluntary inoculated trials for rating hybrids for susceptibility to DON accumulation at Ridgetown and Ottawa beginning in 2019. Hybrids entered by the seed companies will be tested at both locations and will be rated based on two types of inoculation: silk channel and wounding (to simulate insect or bird damage). Use of inoculated trials ensures that all hybrids are subjected to the same level and types of disease pressure and provides data in years when there is little natural infection.

Results are to be available for review by the committee by the end of November 2019. Upon acceptance by the committee, the results will be reported publicly with hybrid names included.

Funding of these trials for at least the next 2 years will be coming from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Grain Farmers of Ontario, the seed companies (through entry fees) and donations from a number of end-users.

While it is a seed company's decision as to whether to participate in these tests and which hybrids to enter, the OCC is strongly encouraging them to enter all new hybrids in the DON trials along with any existing hybrids that they expect to continue to market for 2020 and beyond. It is important that the entries in these trials represent as large a proportion of the corn acreage in the DON-prone areas of Ontario as possible.

It is the intent of the OCC that DON testing will be an on-going component of the hybrid testing offered by the OCC so that growers will continue to have an independent source of information to assist them in reducing the risk of DON contamination of their corn crops.

- 30 -

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The ONTARIO CORN COMMITTEE is made up of representatives of Agriculture and Agri- Food Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs, the University of Guelph, the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, the Grain Farmers of Ontario and the Canadian Seed Trade Association. Hybrid Performance Trials are conducted each year by the following cooperating agencies: Ridgetown Campus, University of Guelph, Ridgetown; Plant Agriculture Department, University of Guelph; Winchester Research Station, University of Guelph, Kent Ag Research Inc., and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at Ottawa.