

ONTARIO CORN COMMITTEE TO RELEASE RESULTS OF 2018 DON TESTING

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 15, 2019

At its meeting on February 14, 2019, the Ontario Corn Committee (OCC) reviewed DON analysis results of samples collected from five performance trials in south-western Ontario in the fall of 2018.

Following this review, the OCC voted unanimously to issue a report which illustrates the relative susceptibility to DON accumulation of the 106 hybrids for which samples were collected. This report is in the final stages of preparation and should be available on GoCorn.net early in the week of February 18th.

There was a wide range in the DON level across hybrids, locations and OCC Tables. The test results were subjected to extensive statistical analysis which confirmed that some hybrids differ significantly in their susceptibility to DON. Some hybrids consistently had the lowest DON levels across locations, while others were consistently among the highest. The majority of hybrids fell into an average category with no significant difference between them. Thus, this report will not attempt to categorize the hybrids into groups according to their susceptibility to DON. Rather it will illustrate their relative susceptibility using a colour coding system ranging from green to red. The greener the colour assigned to a hybrid, the lower its tendency to accumulate DON. Hybrids coded yellow are in the middle, and are more variable, and those coded orange or red are among the most susceptible.

It is important to note that none of the hybrids can be said to be “resistant”. Under conditions favouring Giberella, any of them can accumulate significant amounts of DON. However, the OCC believes that the information contained in this report will provide a tool to assist growers in reducing the risk of selecting hybrids that are among the most susceptible.

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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.