



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)
86		5653 Family
90		6072 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
102	7209 Family / 7278 Family	7224 Family
103		
104		7422 Family / 7480 Family
105	7541 Family	7557 Family
106	7606 Family	7644 Family
107	7771 Family	
108	7818 Family	7876 Family / 7886 Family
109	7900 Family / 7998 Family / 7946 Family	
110	8049 Family	8066 Family / 8091 Family
111	8122 Family / 8104 Family	8175 Family
112	8294 Family / 8255 Family / 8239 Family	8217 Family
113	8326 Family / 8363 Family / 8382 Family	8691 Family
114	8469 Family / 8414 Family	8408 Family / 8345 Family / 8498 Family
115	8572 Family / 8529 Family	8389 Family / 8556 Family
116	8616 Family	8652 Family
117	8741 Family	
119	8912 Family	8860 Family

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