

BETWEEN THE ROWS[®]

Choosing the Right Planting Rate

Wyffels.com

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Where It All Starts

Two of the most critical decisions a corn grower must make each year are choosing the best hybrid for each field, and determining the planting rate of each hybrid to maximize yield and return on investment.

Optimum planting rate is dependent on many factors such as hybrid, soil properties, soil nutrient levels and dynamic weather conditions. It's a balance between maximizing the use of available light, nutrients and soil moisture without causing excessive competition that may impact yield or standability.

Corn growers should work with their Wyffels Seed Representative to find the right hybrid and planting rate for each field. This [Between the Rows](#) will provide information to help make a more informed decision.

Optimum Planting Rate on the Rise

Over the past several decades, higher plant populations have been one of the key factors responsible for greater corn yields. Wyffels has conducted trials demonstrating how hybrids of different eras perform at low (20K) and high (38K) populations (Figure 1).

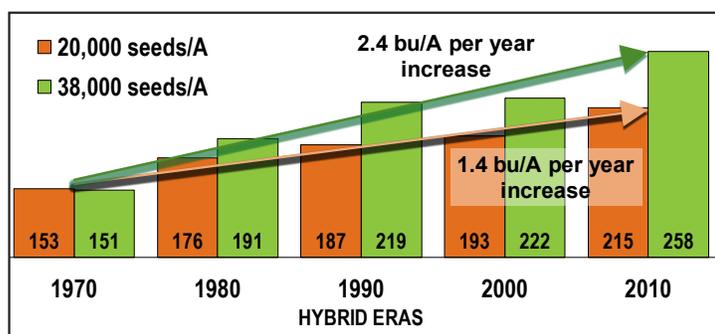


Figure 1. Yield response of hybrids of different eras to seeding rate, 2015-2017.

Over the last 40 years, yields at low populations have increased at a rate of 1.4 bu/A while yields at higher plant populations have increased at nearly 2 times that rate (2.4 bu/A). These findings demonstrate the importance of the efforts of corn breeders in their mission to deliver the highest yielding corn hybrids. Corn breeders have effectively selected genetics more tolerant to stress, which allows modern hybrids to maintain ear size under higher populations.

These genetic advancements, along with improved management practices by corn growers, have been a key driving force behind the increase in corn yield over the last 50 years. Yield increases are due to more ears per acre, not more kernels per ear.

Planting Rate Response by Productivity Level

Wyffels annually evaluates how hybrids respond to a range of populations to determine the best planting rate for each hybrid. Hybrids are tested at populations ranging from 24,000 to 50,000 seeds/A in Wyffels replicated research sites and agronomic strip trials. In over 5,000 comparisons of 100+ hybrids, maximum yield was achieved at a planting rate of 39,000 seeds/A.

Locally, planting rates must take into account other factors like soil type, soil moisture, fertility, and general productivity level. Figure 2 illustrates how optimum planting rates increase as productivity levels increase. **This data supports increasing planting rates in more productive fields or management zones, while reducing planting rates in the less productive areas.** However, even in lower productivity environments, planting rates still need to be in the mid to upper 30's.

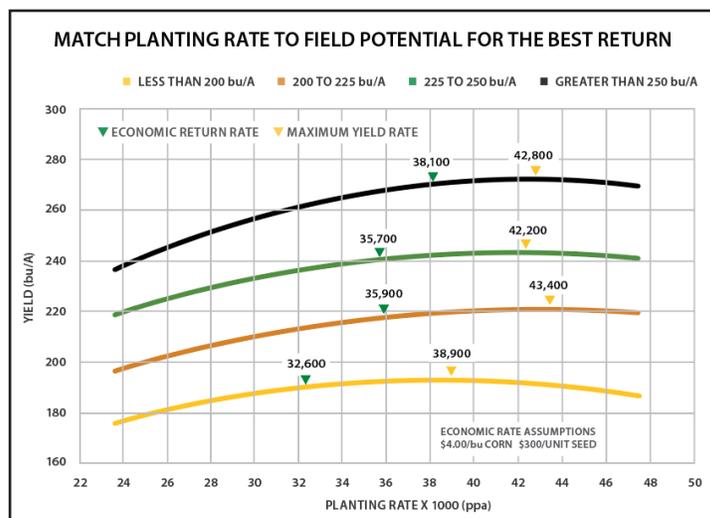


Figure 2. Planting rates by productivity level showing the economic return and maximum yield planting rates.

To help corn growers determine optimum seed rates for Wyffels products, Wyffels corn breeders provide recommended planting rates for each hybrid at low, medium and high productivity levels (*Table 1*).

These recommendations factor in data that has been gathered for each hybrid family, combined with knowledge corn breeders have about how each genetic family performs in different environments, and lastly honed down based on first-hand observations of these hybrids in the field.

Manage to Maximize Production

Today’s hybrids are developed, tested and perform best at plant populations from 34,000-40,000 seeds/A. Growers can take advantage of the productivity of these hybrids by planting at recommended rates for each specific hybrid and field condition. In the current economic climate, growers will be tempted to cut costs, however cutting planting rates can limit yield and profit potential.

Planting rate is one factor that directly impacts yield and is well within producer control. Work with your Wyffels Seed Representative to create a plan for your farm to capture maximum yield and return on investment.

Table 1: Planting rate guidelines by productivity level

HYBRID FAMILY	Productivity Level		
	HIGH	MOD	LOW
W1356	36-40	34-38	32-36
W1487	36-40	34-38	32-36
W1599	36-40	34-38	32-36
W1676	38-42	36-40	34-38
W1758	36-40	34-38	32-36
W1826	36-40	34-38	32-36
W1869	36-40	34-38	32-36
W1988	36-40	34-38	32-36
W1996	36-40	34-38	32-36
W2105	36-40	34-38	32-36
W2236	38-42	36-40	32-36
W2386	38-42	36-40	34-38
W2446	38-42	34-38	32-36
W2506	36-40	34-38	32-36
W2557	36-40	34-38	32-36
W2629	36-40	34-38	32-36
W2648	38-42	36-40	32-36
W2674	36-40	34-38	32-36
W2867	36-40	34-38	32-36
W3095	38-42	36-40	34-38
W3286	36-40	34-38	32-36
W3299	36-40	34-38	32-36
W3309	34-38	32-36	30-34
W3576	34-38	32-36	30-34
W3654	34-38	32-36	30-34
W4025	36-40	34-38	32-36
W4246	38-42	36-40	32-36
W4358	38-42	36-40	34-38
W4439	36-40	34-38	32-36
W4487	36-40	34-38	32-36
W4514	34-38	32-36	30-34
W4545	34-38	32-36	30-34
W4796	38-42	36-40	34-38
W4889	36-40	34-38	32-36
W5019	38-42	36-40	34-38
W5086	38-42	36-40	34-38

HYBRID FAMILY	Productivity Level		
	HIGH	MOD	LOW
W5129	36-40	34-38	32-36
W5406	36-40	34-38	32-36
W5610	34-38	32-36	30-34
W5684	34-38	32-36	30-34
W5735	36-40	34-38	32-36
W5778	36-40	34-38	32-36
W6110	36-40	34-38	32-36
W6215	36-40	34-38	32-36
W6408	38-42	36-40	34-38
W6479	36-40	34-38	32-36
W6505	36-40	34-38	32-36
W6644	34-38	32-36	30-34
W6826	36-40	34-38	32-36
W6886	36-40	34-38	32-36
W7048	36-38	34-38	32-36
W7170	34-38	32-36	30-34
W7208	36-40	34-38	32-36
W7229	36-40	34-38	32-36
W7424	34-38	32-36	30-34
W7456	36-40	34-38	30-34
W7485	36-40	34-38	32-36
W7499	38-42	36-40	34-38
W7536DG	36-40	34-38	32-36
W7544	36-40	34-38	32-36
W7759	36-40	34-38	32-36
W7819	36-40	34-38	32-36
W7876	36-40	34-38	32-36
W7888	38-42	36-40	32-36
W7945	36-40	34-38	32-36
W8007	36-40	34-38	32-36
W8086	36-40	34-38	30-34
W8108	36-40	34-38	32-36
W8134	34-38	32-36	30-34
W8700	36-40	34-38	32-36
W9097	36-40	34-38	32-36
W9218	36-40	34-38	32-36

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