

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFULLY GROWING BMR

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BMR BEST PRACTICES

- Grow proper maturities
- Choose the best fields
- Fertilize properly
- Manage plant populations
- Control insect pests
- Encourage root development
- Watch leaf diseases and have a fungicide option ready
- Harvest properly

Seeking the best management practices for growing Mycogen[®] brand BMR corn hybrids? Start with these guidelines developed by Mycogen Seeds agronomists.

Proper field selection, nutrient and pest management, as well as harvesting at the appropriate time, will help producers realize optimum high-quality forage yields with BMR hybrids.

GROW PROPER MATURITIES

Newer generations of brown midrib (BMR) hybrids yield well in their respective maturity ranges. There's no need to risk growing a longer-season BMR in an attempt to increase tonnage yields out of its adapted maturity range.

CHOOSE THE BEST FIELDS

In droughty soils, plant BMR hybrids where organic material is highest and soil has the best water-holding capacity. This often will be first-year corn following a hay crop. On soils where water is readily available most years, BMR may be planted on corn-on-corn acres up to third-year corn on productive soils. Take special care to use proper fertilization practices on these fields.

FERTILIZE PROPERLY

BMR corn generally should be fertilized like conventional corn silage, but in some cases additional fertilization may be beneficial. Increasing potassium applications by 5 percent to 20 percent can produce a higher return by increasing water regulation and efficiency as well as stalk strength. These applications can assist in achieving better standability and reducing stalk rot issues. Increasing nitrogen by 5 percent to 10 percent, especially in situations where leaf diseases may be an increased risk to production, can increase protection against leaf-disease pathogens. Apply additional nitrogen at sidedressing for maximum efficiency.

MANAGE PLANT POPULATIONS

Ideal BMR plant populations vary by geography, soil type and the specific hybrid being planted. In most environments, plant BMR hybrids at low to moderate plant populations, especially with semi-flex hybrids. Soils that are highly fertile and have better water-holding capacity and adequate moisture can support higher plant populations. For example, some highly productive soils under full irrigation can support final plant populations as high as 38,000 plants per acre. Consult your Mycogen Seeds representative for recommended local population ranges for each BMR variety.

CONTROL INSECT PESTS

As with any silage crop, controlling insect pests is essential to help achieve optimum BMR stalk quality and yield potential. Mycogen brand BMR hybrids with SmartStax® technology provide the broadest spectrum of above- and below-ground insect protection ever available. The multiple modes of action expressed in SmartStax hybrids allow refuge requirements to be reduced from 20 percent to 5 percent in the Corn Belt.¹

Mycogen brand BMR hybrids also are available with Herculex® XTRA *Insect Protection* to protect the crop from above-ground insects, including black cutworm, western bean cutworm, European corn borer, fall armyworm, corn rootworm (CRW) and other secondary insect pests. If CRW protection isn't needed, consider BMR hybrids with Herculex I *Insect Protection*. On nontraited BMR fields or refuge acres, apply a soil insecticide according to the label, use a seed treatment and plant early to avoid European corn borer damage.

ENCOURAGE ROOT DEVELOPMENT

In addition to controlling CRW, take steps to improve the root environment. Reduce soil compaction, avoid conditions that favor sidewall compaction at planting and use deep tillage (up to 18 inches) to break plow layers prior to the planting season. Also, review potential herbicide choices that may limit root growth and development under certain conditions.

WATCH LEAF DISEASES AND HAVE A FUNGICIDE OPTION READY

Scout for leaf diseases 10 days prior to tasseling and have a plan to treat your field if infestations reach economic thresholds. If leaf diseases persist year to year, work with your seed supplier to select resistant hybrids for specific leaf diseases. Currently, evidence is developing that suggests early season fungicide applications, between the V5 and V8 stage, may be beneficial for silage production. Remember that fungicides can act either as a prevention or treatment for disease. Consider which type of fungicide to use and the optimum time for application depending upon your specific needs.

HARVEST PROPERLY

Harvest silage at the proper moisture for suitable fermentation and performance in the cow. Monitor for stalk rot and other indicators of stalk quality prior to harvest to identify fields that should be considered for harvest first.

For more information on how Mycogen® brand BMR corn silage can improve a dairy's bottom line, visit the Mycogen Seeds website at www.mycogen.com or contact your local Mycogen Seeds representative.

¹In cotton-growing regions, refuge requirements are reduced from 50 percent to 20 percent.

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