



Missouri Crop Improvement Association News and Notes

December - 2020

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MCIA's News and Notes is designed to provide members and other interested individuals with information about MCIA programs and services, as well as timely access to information that impacts the seed industry and agriculture in general. Our format is structured to provide a brief introduction to topics of interest along with contact information or links to sources where you can obtain more detailed information. Many of the articles and items listed in this newsletter contain web addresses or hyperlinks by which you can obtain additional information. If you do not have internet access and would like additional information on any of the topics mentioned in this newsletter, please contact the MCIA office and we will forward you the information. Please feel free to contact the MCIA office if you have questions or suggestions for items to be included in future issues.

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season and Prosperous New Year from the Staff of the Missouri Crop Improvement Association

With the holiday season upon us and a very unusual and in many ways challenging year approaching an end, we want to extend to each of you our heartfelt wishes for a joyous holiday season and a very happy (and healthy) new year. Even though this year will end in a much different manner than any previous year for most of us, we hope that everyone will find it in their heart to remember all the blessings that 2020 has brought. Many homes will be a little emptier this holiday season and large family gatherings will be replaced by a phone call or a video chat. It is our hope that each of you can take comfort in the old saying that "home is where the heart is" and that your heart will be filled with love and joy for your friends and family, whether near or far.

Soybean Quality Update and Testing Issues

As of December 22, the MCIA seed lab has completed germination testing on 872 samples from the 2020 crop with an average germination of 90.57%. This compares to an average germination of 93.61% on 892 samples at the same time in 2019 and 88.20% on 963 samples at the same time in 2018. The 90.57% average germination represents results from all four methods (regular towel, treated towel, regular sand and treated sand). For comparison, the lab has tested 127 hand treated samples with an average of 92.68% and 131 sand germinations with an average of 91.85%. Mechanical damage, particularly in later harvested samples (after October 20) is the primary factor leading to reduced germinations, although we continue to see more seed borne disease and common molds in samples received from southern production locations.

For those producers that do have preliminary samples showing low germination results, MCIA's seed testing lab offers optional lab treated towel germination, regular sand germination and lab treated sand germination services. In some instances, sand germination testing can show improved results for samples with light seed borne infections and no mechanical damage. Treated towel germination testing can show the response of a sample to testing with a standard fungicide treatment. MCIA is currently using CruiserMaxx Vibrance and can access other fungicide treatment options upon request. Please feel free to contact the MCIA seed testing lab if you have questions or would like to discuss testing options for your 2020 soybean seed production.

Vigor Testing for Soybeans

As would be expected with lower germination seed lots, we are seeing a reduction in seedling vigor as measured by the accelerated aging (AA) test when compared to warm germination results, especially in later harvested production that experienced several cycles of weathering. Damaged seed coats cause the seed to lose stored energy during the germination process, leading to seedlings with reduced vigor. Further complicating matters is an abundance of common molds, again particularly in later harvested production.

Accelerated aging tests should be conducted in conjunction with and compared to the results from a normal warm germination exam. High vigor lots should not exhibit more than a 5-10% spread between the 2 tests. Spreads over 10% indicate that the vigor level is dropping and the higher the spread, the lower the vigor. Please contact the MCIA office if you have questions or would like to discuss vigor testing in greater detail.

Variety Testing Performance Results

Results from the University of Missouri's 2020 performance testing for corn and soybean are available via the internet at <http://varietytesting.missouri.edu/> and may also be accessed via a link on MCIA's web site (<http://mocrop.org>). Preliminary results were posted as soon as locations were harvested, but keep in mind they are only preliminary results until all data has been checked and verified. It should be noted that the same late planting and unseasonably wet conditions that plagued much of Missouri did not spare the variety testing plots. Some locations had to be abandoned completely and other locations experienced a high degree of variability. Please contact the MCIA office if you would like to receive a printed copy of the 2020 results when they become available.

2021 Spring Seed Directory

A copy of the 2021 Missouri Spring Seed Directory will be posted to the MCIA web site shortly after the first of the year. In the interim, please contact the MCIA office if you have questions regarding the availability of any particular type and/or variety of soybeans.

MCIA Holiday Office Hours

The MCIA office will be closed on the following days during the upcoming holidays.

December 23

December 24

December 25

January 1

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 28

Agriculture Business Council of Kansas City 2010 Legal Update

Online

February 11-12

MCIA Board of Directors Meeting – Winter Session

Columbia, MO

Happy Holidays