

Corn growers picking hybrids

There's a long, cold winter between now and the 2012 planting season, but corn growers are already planning for spring. Kansas State University scientists encourage producers to keep some things in mind as they consider corn hybrids.

"Since Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis) corn first came on the market several years ago, there have been many changes," said Kansas State Research and Extension agronomist Kraig Roozeboom. "Now there are several different Bt products on the market, and various versions with different traits."

Roozeboom, along with Kansas State entomologist Jeff Whitworth, gave tips for corn growers regarding Bt corn selection.

- Avoid using hybrids with traits that are not necessary. Using such hybrids will increase the chance of insects developing resistance to the traits. For example, producers who are not in a continuous corn system probably do not need corn rootworm

Bt hybrids.

- Consider rotating hybrids with different Bt proteins (events) for a given insect. Much like rotating classes of insecticides, it doesn't hurt to use hybrids with different events and modes of action for a specific pest. For example, the Agrisure, Herculex/Optimum and YieldGard/Genuity hybrids use different events. This helps delay resistance. It's also important to pay attention to whether an insect is controlled or suppressed.
- Follow refuge requirements for the various traits and trait stacks as applicable to their location. Their seed suppliers should provide that information as part of the grower agreement.

Information, including charts showing genes, events and insects controlled by each of the different products, is available in the Nov. 18, 2011, extension agronomy e-Update newsletter: www.agronomy.ksu.edu/extension.

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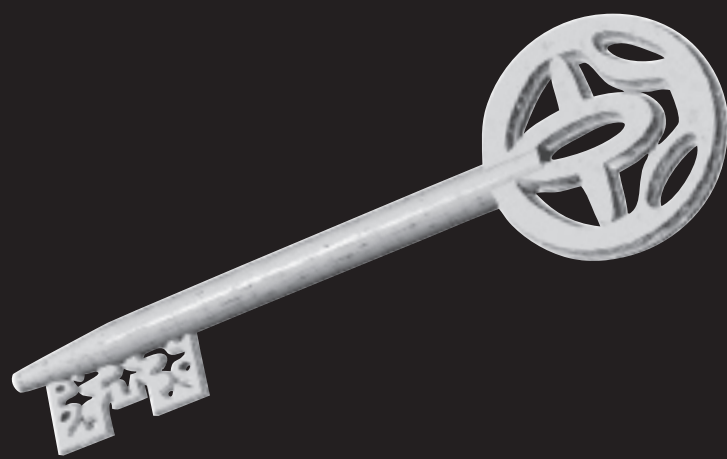
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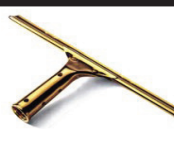


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