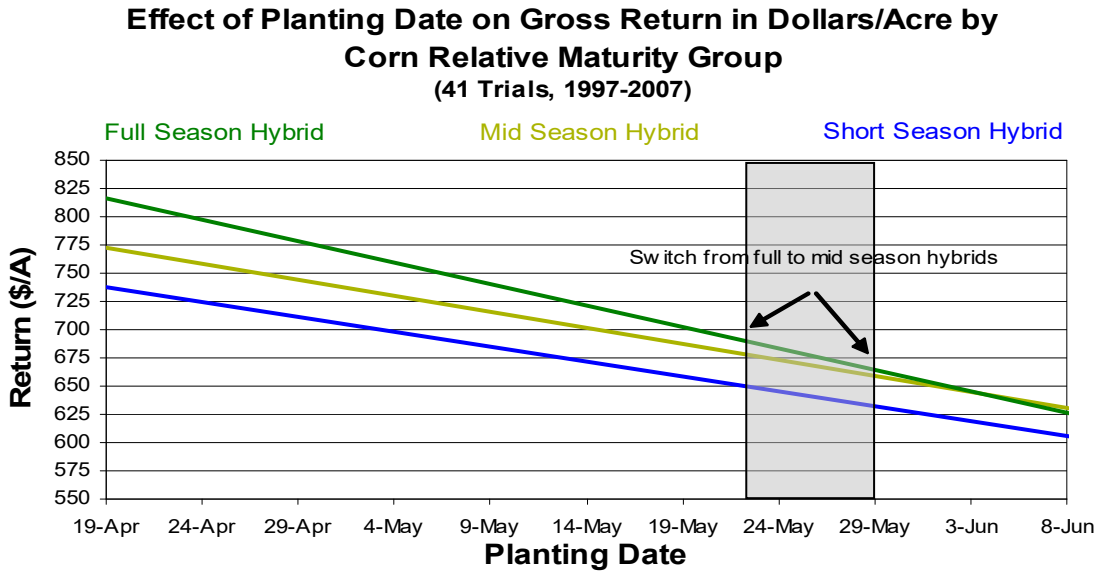
AGRONOMY NEWSLETTER

April 13, 2018

Don't Switch to Early Corn Hybrids Just Yet

No two years are ever alike so it is important to look at history and make decisions based on several years of data rather than just last year. More years than not, planting a full season hybrid will create more revenue/acre than planting that short season hybrid. Syngenta Agronomy Research has done an extensive amount of work throughout the country over several years on what effect planting date has on hybrid performance and revenue/acre. In general planting prior to May 7th is ideal and in most cases will allow a full season hybrid to achieve its full potential. After May 10th is when the difficult decisions begin. Yield potential will steadily decrease as time goes on, but on average, for every day planted after May 10th you can expect a one bushel loss per acre. Grain moisture is another major factor that is always on the mind when it comes to making these decisions. Research has shown that for every seven days planted prior to May 10th, you will end up with one point lower moisture at harvest. **However, after May 10th, grain moisture will increase by one point for every four days planting gets delayed.** Test weight can't be forgotten about when making these decisions as well. Research has shown that for every 24 days planted prior to May 10th, you will gain one pound of test weight. On the reverse side, for every 10 days that planting is delayed past May 10th, you will lose one pound of test weight.



The previous chart has taken all of these factors into considerations at $3.50 corn and $.06/point/bu drying cost. The lines represent return per acre as planting gets later. A mid - season hybrid is anything that is four to seven days earlier RM than a full season and a short season is eight to eleven days earlier in RM than a full. The Gray box on the chart indicates the range where the decision should be made to switch from a full season to a mid-season hybrid. This date range is from the 23rd to the 29th of May. The one thing very apparent in this illustration is that at no point does the line of the short season hybrid come anywhere close to crossing the other two lines meaning that it almost never pays to switch to an eight to eleven day earlier hybrid.

Yield, moisture, and test weight are always the main factors that we worry about when it comes to deciding to switch, but don't let those be the only decision making factors. Hopefully the hybrid you had planned provides the best agronomic package for your field and the earlier season hybrids may not match your ground as well.

It's impossible to know what the upcoming growing season will all entail, but you can hedge your bets by sticking with the historical averages and stick with the plan as long as possible and don't jump into that early hybrid just yet.

Visit www.nkseeds.com. Join the conversation online – connect with us at social.SyngentaUS.com.
