



2014 Variety Selection...

Year in and year out, choosing the right beet seed variety will allow growers at Minn-Dak Farmers Coop. to maximize the benefits from the production practices in place at each individual farm. As all of you well know, the right (or in many cases the wrong) variety can make or break a field, and unlike the option of a “rescue” treatment when a chemical application fails, you only have one shot to get this decision right. Here are some important (and often neglected) points to keep in mind when ordering your beet seed varieties for 2014:

Select your varieties on a field-by-field basis. A very common mistake made by growers is the assumption that “one size fits all” when it comes to beet seed varieties when in reality, it is exactly the opposite. Each variety has its own unique traits beyond the yield and quality parameters highlighted in the 2014 MDFC Seed Packet. Traits such as emergence potential, vigor, performance by soil type and ease of defoliating are often overlooked and need to be tailored to fit the needs of a specific field to maximize on-farm profits.

Rhizoctonia seed treatments help alleviate disease pressure, but are not a silver bullet. Although seed treatments such as Kabina ST™ and Metlock+Rizolex™ offer sufficient disease protection early in the growing season (roughly 4-6 weeks after planting), the plant is on its own from there on out. The Rhizoctonia-resistance ratings of each variety need to be carefully evaluated if you are planting into a field with a history of the disease. Don't get me wrong, these types of seed-treatments work well and certainly have a place (especially when used in conjunction with a post-emerge application), but need to be viewed as a complement to the genetic protection of the variety and not the primary means of disease control.

Freight-Freight-Freight. Make sure to consider the distance from your fields to the receiving stations. Even with the Minn-Dak trucking payment factored into the equation, it makes more sense to raise a high sugar per ton variety the farther the field is located from the receiving station. Alongside labor, fuel is one of the highest financial inputs during the harvest period – you'll be surprised how much you can add to your bottom line by hauling sugar rather than tons from your farthest fields.

Know what primary disease(s) is present in your fields. Although the seed companies have done an excellent job releasing increasingly disease-resistant varieties over the past several years, many of these varieties are very disease-specific. Make sure to keep the long-term history of disease-specific problems in mind when ordering your 2014 beet seed. Just because you didn't see a particular disease in your field the last time you had beets in rotation doesn't mean that it is clear sailing from here on out. If the field in question had a particular disease(s) at one point in time, the potential is there for history to repeat itself.

Talk to your Agriculturist. Each Agriculturist on the Minn-Dak Ag Staff is a member of the Minn-Dak Seed Committee. These individuals have watched all of the 2014 approved varieties “climb the ranks” through the Official Variety Trials and can compare/contrast each individual variety on both a plot and commercial scale. They are a tremendous resource and can steer you in the correct direction should you have any questions on the above points.

Seed Info Online

The 2014 Seed Packet & Trial Summary can be found in the “Research & Resource” section of the Minn-Dak Agriculture website.



Top 10 Varieties of 2013...

Recoverable Sugar per Acre

3-Year Percentage of Commercial Mean

Variety	RSA	Rank
Beta 7070	106.18	1
Beta 7099	105.54	2
ACH 830 (Rzc)	105.50	3
Seedex Vapor	105.01	4
ACH 012 (Rzc)	103.21	5
SES/Vdh 36926	102.76	6
Seedex Ultra	102.38	7
SES/Vdh 36187	102.17	8
SES/Vdh 36084	100.72	9
Hilleshög 4303	100.67	10

Aphanomyces Root Rating

3-Year Root Rot Index Mean

Variety	3-Yr Mean	Rank
SES/Vdh 36188 (Aph)	4.41	1
Hilleshög 4022 (Rzc)	4.52	2
Hilleshög 4303	4.77	3
SES/Vdh 36187	4.93	4
SES/Vdh 36084	5.06	5

2-Year Root Rot Index Mean

Variety	3-Yr Mean	Rank
Beta 7099	4.68	1
ACH 830 (Rzc)	4.72	2
Hilleshög 4062 (Rzc)	4.72	3
Seedex Vapor	4.75	4
ACH 012 (Rzc)	4.91	5

Fusarium Root Rating

3-Year Root Rot Index Mean

Variety	3-Yr Mean	Rank
Beta 7070	3.45	1
Beta 7099	3.45	2
ACH 012 (Rzc)	3.68	3
ACH 830 (Rzc)	3.77	4
SES/Vdh 36188 (Aph)	4.25	5
Seedex Ultra	4.47	6
Hilleshög 4022 (Rzc)	4.48	7
Hilleshög 4062 (Rzc)	4.70	8
SES/Vdh 36926	4.84	9
Seedex Vapor	5.04	10

Recoverable Sugar per Ton

3-Year Percentage of Commercial Mean

Variety	RSA	Rank
Hilleshög 4303	103.32	1
ACH 012 (Rzc)	103.17	2
SES/Vdh 36084	102.61	3
Beta 7099	102.53	4
SES/Vdh 36926	102.46	5
SES/Vdh 36187	102.21	6
Beta 7070	101.86	7
Seedex Vapor	101.40	8
Hilleshög 4022 (Rzc)	101.07	9
Hilleshög 4062 (Rzc)	99.49	10

Rhizoctonia Root Rating

3-Year Root Rot Index Mean

Variety	3-Yr Mean	Rank
Hilleshög 4062 (Rzc)	3.35	1
Hilleshög 4022 (Rzc)	3.38	2
ACH 830 (Rzc)	3.64	3
ACH 012 (Rzc)	3.69	4
SES/Vdh 36188 (Aph)	3.83	5
Beta 7070	4.05	6
Beta 7099	4.06	7
Seedex Ultra	4.34	8
Seedex Vapor	4.48	9
SES/Vdh 36926	4.56	10

Cercospora Leaf Spot Rating

3-Year Foliar Rating Mean

Variety	3-Yr Mean	Rank
Hilleshög 4062 (Rzc)	4.28	1
Hilleshög 4022 (Rzc)	4.32	2
SES/Vdh 36188 (Aph)	4.34	3
SES/Vdh 36926	4.49	4
Beta 7099	4.55	5
Hilleshög 4303	4.56	6
SES/Vdh 36187	4.57	7
Seedex Vapor	4.68	8
Beta 7070	4.68	9
ACH 012 (Rzc)	4.70	10

-- An Aphanomyces root rating of 4.45 or less must be obtained to be considered "Aphanomyces Specialty" --
 -- An Rhizoctonia root rating of 3.82 or less must be obtained to be considered "Rhizoctonia Specialty" --