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Agronomic & Test Information:

Corpus Christi, TX Oilseed Hybrid Sunflower Trial, 2011

TEST:	**2011 Rainfed Oilseed Sunflower Hybrid Trial**
LOCATION:	Texas AgriLife Research & Extension Center, Corpus Christi, TX
TEST COORDINATORS:	Mr. Dennis Pietsch, Texas AgriLife Research Crop Testing Program, College Station; Mr. Kenneth Schaefer, Texas AgriLife Research senior research associate, Corpus Christi; Mr. Darwin Anderson, Texas AgriLife Research entomologist, Corpus Christi; Dr. Calvin Trostle, Texas AgriLife Extension Service agronomist, Lubbock
SOIL TYPE:	Orelia sandy clay loam
ROW WIDTH:	38”
PREVIOUS CROP:	Grain Sorghum
LAND PREPARATION:	Disked twice, then bedded
DATE PLANTED:	March 1, 2011
SEEDING RATE:	Overplanted at ~27,000 seeds/A then targeted for thinning at 1 plant per 9” (~18,500 seeds/A); due to skips in initial stand (doubles and triples), stands were thinner but relatively uniform though emergence was very erratic due to limited moisture at planting
PLANTED AREA:	4 rows x 35’
FERTILIZER:	Applied 300 lbs/Acre 25-6-0-0.16Zn (75-18-0-0.48Zn) on December 23, 2010
HERBICIDE:	Broadcast Prowl H_2O (2 pints/A) on March 5, 2011
INSECTICIDE:	Applied 1.9 oz./Acre Karate w/ Zeon on: April 29, May 4, 10, 16, 20, and 24, 2011
RAINFALL:	January, 3.8”; February, 0.2”; March, 0.4 "; April, 0"; May, 1.7"; June, 0.3 "; Total, 6.4"
IRRIGATION:	None
DATE HARVESTED:	June 23, 2011
SIZE HARVESTED PLOT:	Two 38-inch rows X 13’ 8”

TEST DESIGN:	Randomized block (by rep)
NUMBER ENTRIES:	11
NUMBER REPLICATIONS:	4
TEST MEAN:	1,571 lbs./A yield (corrected to 10% moisture) with crop value of $486/A when adjusted for oil content. Yield and test weights were determined based on Reps 2 to 4 due to low yield on the front Rep. Yield range was 1,065 to 1,878 lbs./A.
TEST YIELD C.V.:	18.2%--This statistical measure indicates excessive variability in the data. Though high in this test it does not preclude using the data for comparisons among hybrids.
TEST %OIL MEAN:	44.2% (range 40.3 to 46.4%; C.V. = 4.8%)

COMMENTS: Moisture conditions were poor leading into the planting season. This trial was delayed at least two weeks from target planting due to dry soil. Approximately 0.5" of rain fell in late February, and the decision was made to attempt planting. Emergence was inconsistent due to marginal moisture, e.g., there was a great range in emergence thought not nearly as much as a neighboring confectionary sunflower hybrid trial. (Confectionary seed must imbibe more water than oilseed sunflower in order to germinate. Due to lack of uniformity in bloom, plots were sprayed six times though we still had difficulty with moth control.

Oilseed was priced at $28.50/cwt. An adjacent 2011 confectionary sunflower hybrid test yielded 1,147 lbs./A with a crop value of $349/A.

The 2010 oilseed sunflower hybrid trial at the same site yielded about 300 lbs./A more, but had about 8" more inches of rainfall. We are very pleased with the yields in this current trial in spite of the lack of rainfall.

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For further info about this test or the Texas AgriLife Research Crop Testing Program, contact Mr. Dennis Pietsch, Crop Testing director, Texas AgriLife Research, College Station, TX, (979) 845-8505, dpietsch@ag.tamu.edu

For sunflower production information in South Texas consult Dr. Dan Fromme, Extension agronomist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Corpus Christi, (361) 265-9203, dfromme@ag.tamu.edu

Please visit the Texas AgriLife Crop Testing Program webpage for sunflower as well as hybrid testing information for corn, grain sorghum, and forage at http://varietytesting.tamu.edu

For further information about sunflower production across Texas, contact state sunflower Extension specialist Dr. Calvin Trostle, Lubbock, (806) 746-6101, ctrostle@ag.tamu.edu or visit http://lubbock.tamu.edu/sunflower