

Recommended Last Planting Date for Grain Sorghum Hybrids in the Texas Panhandle--2001

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For producer questions contact any author. For company updates or additions to this list please call Jim Barber or look for any recent updates via the Internet at <http://lubbock.tamu.edu> and click on crops then sorghum. You may also obtain a copy through your local

Recommended Last Planting Date for Grain Sorghum

Hybrids in the Texas Panhandle

Sorghum producers in the Texas Panhandle have many excellent sorghum hybrids from which to choose. Planting dates can range from late April to early July. Many producers may not readily understand the different sorghum maturity classes or when they should or shouldn't be planted (i.e., what is a 110-day sorghum, and how may it vary?). In addition, early season cold tolerance is an attribute that is important for early season planting. Likewise, tillering and its control may strongly influence the success of the sorghum crop, particularly as planting date affects tillering (cool temperatures favor tillering). Hybrids that tiller have the ability to compensate upward if production conditions are favorable relative to the established plant population, but tillering hybrids also erode the ability to manage the targeted plant populations that are needed with limited water.

These are general guidelines and are not an endorsement of any one hybrid or company by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Not all companies responded to our request. Suggested last planting dates for each hybrid are intended to be conservative in order to protect the producer. The further north and west one is located in the Panhandle, then move toward the earlier portion of the range of last planting dates for a particular hybrid. Check with the seed company representative in your area for specifics. Please report discrepancies in growth and maturity for your particular hybrid and suggested planting date to Jim Barber as well as the company representative.

Keep in mind that in terms of historical averages flowering is most susceptible to damage by hot weather even when moisture is adequate. Many producers err on the side of planting too many seed per acre. As a result, in drought conditions, producers are at risk of inadequate moisture per plant during flowering and grain fill to produce grain. In managing risk, know that most grain sorghum hybrids at modest plant populations are able to flex upward to meet the yield potential of favorable conditions. This is less risky agronomically and economically than having a high plant population under drought conditions.

Managing Risk--Balancing Seeding Rate vs. Available Soil Moisture: Seeding rate should be dependent on stored soil moisture and irrigation availability. For most dryland sorghum production in the Panhandle on heavy textured soil, potential plant available stored soil moisture will range from 1.5 to 2.0 inches per foot. In sandy soils stored soil moisture will range from 0.75 to 1.25 inches per foot. If eight to nine inches of plant available stored soil moisture are present, consider a seeding rate of 30,000-35,000 seeds/A. If six to eight inches of stored soil moisture are present, a seeding rate of 20,000 to 30,000 seeds/A is adequate. If less than six inches of stored soil moisture are present, lower seeding rate to 16,000-20,000 seeds/A. For limited irrigation (6-10") with low soil profile moisture conditions, target 40,000-45,000 seeds/A, but if soil moisture is good, consider 50,000-55,000 seeds/A. For full irrigation levels, target 80,000 seeds/A on June 1, but by July consider 100,000-110,000 seeds/A for non-tillering hybrids and 80,000-90,000 seeds/A for tillering hybrids. Seeding rate can also be determined based on yield potential. Plant 8000 seeds/A for every 1000 lb of yield potential under dryland or limited irrigated conditions.

Because seed costs are relatively low for sorghum (\$1.00-\$1.20 per pound), growers too easily increase seeding rates as it doesn't much affect production costs. Seeding rates occasionally are altered to reflect planting conditions. In general for high quality seed under favorable conditions, expect germination 90%, and stand

establishment of 80-90% for germinated seeds. If difficult germination or stand establishment is expected, stand establishment will often be 60-70% or less. If a rain germinates all seed and high establishment occurs, but overall growing conditions remain poor, plant population will often be too high.

In the accompanying table, company representatives have provided estimates of the 'last recommended planted date' for their hybrids. For table headings from left to right, the hybrids below for the Panhandle are arranged by date into four general groups for 'last planting date.' Hybrids with a last recommended planting date of June 10-20 are medium to long maturity. Late June hybrids are generally medium to medium early; early July hybrids are medium early to early; and the hybrids suggested for July 8-15 are early maturity.

Seed Company Recommendations for Last Planting Dates of Selected Hybrids

(listed alphabetically with contact person and URL if available)

Key: *Good early season vigor ratings, adapted to early plantings at cooler temperatures.

Tillering #: 1 = None, 2 = Little, 3 = Moderate, 4 = High.

COMPANY: AgriPro Seeds--Phil Kunz, (806) 358-4807, <http://www.agripro.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
2949*	2	Honcho*	3	2233*	2	9135	2
Cherokee*	3	2731	2	2440	2	2140	2
2838	2	2468*	2	9210	3		
Wings	2	2660*	3				
9850*	3	2800	3				

COMPANY: Asgrow--James Baxter, (806) 353-7405, <http://www.monsanto.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
A459*	2	A201	3				
A504	3	A298	3				
A570*	2	LASER	3				
A571*	3	SENECA*	3				
A581	3						
A603 (1)	3						
MISSILE	2						

(1) Do not plant later than June 10.

COMPANY: Cargill--James Allison (512) 793-4901; Joe Barnes, (806) 293-8422 also (800) 815-3296

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
737*	3	606	2	576	2		
770Y	3	627	2				
775Y	3	697	2				

COMPANY: Crosbyton Seed Co.--Tony Davis, (806) 675-2308, <http://www.crosbytonseed.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
9080	2	380	2	5914*	2	6035	2
8060*	3	5050	3			7031	2
8080*	3	6 Row Y	3			4 Row Y	3
1489*	2	6 Row GBT	3				
6092	3						
6080	3						
7050	3						
6 Row R	3						

COMPANY: Dekalb--James Baxter (806) 353-7405, <http://www.monsanto.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
DK66* (1)	3	DK44	1	DK28E	2		
DK65	4	DK40Y	3				
DK56	1	DK39Y	2				
DK55	3	DK38Y	3				
DK54*	3	DK36*	3				
DK53	2						
DK47*	3						
DK45*	3						
DK43A	3						
DK41Y	4						

(1) Must be planted by June 10.

COMPANY: Frontier Hybrids--Dan Ryan, (806) 298-2595, <http://www.frontierhybrid.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
F647E*	3	F-457E	4	F-270E*	4	F-227E	2
F-700E*	3	F-303C*	3			F-200E	2
		F-501E	3				

COMPANY: Garrison & Townsend--Bill Townsend, (806) 364-0560

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
SG-822	3	SG-753	3	SG-95207	2	SG-96275	2
SG-94249*	2	SG-95512	2	SG-96258	2	SG-95392	2
SG-97157	3	SG-677	3				
SG-925	3						

COMPANY: Garst Seed--Phil Kunz, (806) 358-4807, <http://www.garstseed.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
5319	2	5522Y	3	5631Y	3	5727	2
5440*	2	5429	2	5616	3	5715	2
5503*	3	5515	3				
		5664*	2				

COMPANY: Golden Acres Genetics- James Allison (512) 793-4901, <http://www.gaseed.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
ORO XTRA	3	411	2	M 3838	2	ORO ALPHA	1
T-E Y-101G	2	T-E- Y-75	1	T-E-EDEN	1	3595*	1
T-E PROSPER	2	1506*	2	1482	2	3636	2
444E	3	1552	1	1498E	2		
ORO G XTRA	2			3300	2		
522 DR	3						
3694	3						
3700	2						

COMPANY: Golden Harvest--Bart Arbuthnot, (806) 289-5343, <http://www.goldenharvestseeds.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
H-502	2	H-403Y	3	H-388W	2	H-296W*	2
H-505BW	2	H-471*	2	H-390W	2		
H-512	2	H-495W	2	H-393*	2		
		H-499Y	2	H-403*	2		
		H-483*	2				

COMPANY: NC+ Hybrids--David Rohrbach, (806) 655-9705, <http://www.nc-plus.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
NC+7R83*	2	NC+6B67*	3	5B74E*	2	4R48	4
NC+7W97	3	NC+Y363	2			5C35	3
NC+8R18	3	NC+6C69	3				
NC+7B29*	2	NC+6B50*	4				
NC+271	3	NC+6C21	3				
NC+371	3	NC+6R30*	3				
NC+7C49	3	NC+262	2				
NC+7R37E	3	NC+6B70	4				
NC+7B47*	3						
NC+7Y57-K	3						
NC+7W51	3						

COMPANY: Pioneer--Charles Ikard, (806) 922-5881, <http://www.pioneer.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
8212Y	3	8414	2	8699	3	8950	3
8310	3	8522Y	3	87G57	3	8925	3
84G62*	3	8500*	2	86G71	2	8875	3
83G66	3	85G85	3				
84G82	3	8505	2				
		85Y34	3				

COMPANY: Production Plus--Mike Northcutt (806) 293-3103, <http://www.proplusseed.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
PP 777	2	PP 799E	1	PP 333	3		
PP 644	2						
PP 599W	3						

COMPANY: Richardson Seeds--Vince Barclay, (806) 267-2379, <http://www.richardsonseeds.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
9200Y	2	RS200E	2	SPRINT II	2	DASH E	3
9212Y	2	RS250E	2	SPRINT E	3		
9300	2	9200Y	2				
9322	2	202CR	2				
JOWAR-1	2	RS225	2				

COMPANY: Sorghum Partners--Corey Brown, Kevin Rider, Danny Hancock, (800) 645-7478, <http://www.sorghumpartners.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
2030	2	KS310*	2	251	2		
K35-Y5*	3						

COMPANY: Triumph--Darin Greene, (806) 781-5941, <http://www.triumphseed.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
TR82G	3	TR60G	3	TR430	3		
TR481	2	TR461	3	TR432*	2		
Two 80-D	3	TR447	3				
TR474	3	TR445	3				
TR65G	3	TR438	3				
TR464	3						
TR459	1						
TR462	3						

COMPANY: UAP Seed--Robert Prince, (318) 738-9041, <http://www.uapsouthwest.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
DG 780B	2			DG 740C	2		
DG 760C	3			DG 730B*	3		
DG 752B*	3						
DG 762B*	2						

COMPANY: Warner Seeds, Inc.--Jerry Monk (806) 364-4470, <http://www.warnerseeds.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
W-614-W	3	W-528W	3	W-560T	3	W-494	2
W-624-Y	2	W-588-Y	2				
W-625-Y	2	W-622-E	3				
W-632-W	3	W-644-E	3				
W-816-E	3	W-664-T	2				
W-818-E	2						
W-839-DR*	3						
W-844-E	3						
W-965E*	2						
W-858E*	3						
W-844E	2						
W-851-DR*	3						
W-858-E*	2						
W-876-DR	2						
W-902W	3						
W-965-E*	2						