

Recommended Last Planting Date for Grain Sorghum Hybrids in the Texas South Plains–2003



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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 sorghum. You may also obtain recent a copy through your local county extension office. This document will be updated each year by May 1.

Recommended Last Planting Date for Grain Sorghum Hybrids in the Texas South Plains

Sorghum producers in the Texas South Plains have many good sorghum hybrids to choose from. The range of planting dates, however, occurs 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, which may be important particularly for early season plantings when good soil moisture is available. Likewise, tillering and its control may strongly influence the success of sorghum cropping 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 targeted plant populations.

These are general guidelines and are not an endorsement of any one hybrid or company by the Texas Cooperative Extension. 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 one is in the South Plains, 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 harmed by hot weather even when moisture is adequate. Many producers err on the side of planting too much seed per acre. As a result, in droughty 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 crop under droughty conditions.

Managing Risk—Balancing Seeding Rate vs. Available Soil Moisture: Suggested sorghum seeding rates are influenced by the *available* soil moisture in soils of different textures. Generally, sandy to sandy loam soil can store about 1" of available soil water per foot; a silty loam to clay loam soil can store about 1.5" inches per foot; and a clayey soil can store about 2" per foot. Typically, it takes 6-8" inches of available moisture (rainfall or in the soil) to bring a sorghum crop to the point of grain production, and each additional 1" of water should produce 350-425 lbs. of grain.

For most dryland sorghum production in the Texas South Plains, when soil profile moisture is adequate (>4" of available soil moisture), a good target is 30,000-35,000 seeds/A. If soil moisture is low (2-4"), a seed drop of 25,000-30,000/A is advised. For any condition with poor soil moisture, especially as plantings approach July 1, consider 20,000 seeds/A. For limited irrigation (4-8") 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.

Because seed costs are relatively low for sorghum (\$1.00-1.20 cents 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 be too high.

The following is a general guideline for last recommended plantings of grain sorghum hybrids on the South Plains. Note that many sorghum seed companies will have hybrids intermediate between medium and early (i.e., medium-early). The suggested final planting date for the listed regions has been extended by five days since these guidelines were first compiled in May, 2000. A medium-early hybrid is a good compromise between these two categories if you have doubts, especially if your county is to the north and west in a particular group. In general, Extension suggests the following guidelines as criteria for the last recommended planting dates for sorghum maturity classes in the Lubbock region:

Counties	Medium Maturity	Early Maturity
Parmer, Castro, Bailey, Cochran	June 25	July 5
Swisher, Lamb, Hale, Floyd, Hockley, Lubbock, Crosby, Yoakum, Terry	June 30	July 10
Lynn, Garza, Gaines, Dawson, Borden, Scurry, Andrews, Martin, Howard, Mitchell	July 5	July 15

These suggested dates consider the length of sorghum maturity vs. historical averages for cool fall weather, which can be expected ahead of frost. Although these sorghum maturity classes may be planted later and be successful in many years, these guidelines should help producers understand when risk increases relative to achieving grain yield potential. If you must consider a very late sorghum planting, choose among hybrids that have estimated ‘days to maturity’ of less than 90 days. Check among seed dealers for suggestions.

In the accompanying table, company representatives have provided estimates of the ‘last recommended planting date’ for their hybrids. For table headings from left to right, the hybrids below for the South Plains 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-long to long maturity. In addition, late June hybrids are generally medium; early July hybrids are medium early to early; and the hybrids suggested for July 8-15 are earliest 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	2800	3				
9850*	3	2660*	3				

COMPANY: Asgrow—Mike Heath, (806) 780-7764; Bennie Pickrell (806) 385-3763

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

COMPANY: Cargill—James Allison (512) 793-490; 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#
833	2	737*	3	606	2	576	2
837*	3	770Y	3				
		775Y	3				
		697	2				
		627	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	7050	3	5914*	3	6035	2
8060*	3	380	2			7031	2
8080*	3	5050	2			4 Row Y	3
1489*	2	6 Row Y	3				
6080	3	6 Row GBT	3				
6092	3						
6 Row R	3						

COMPANY: Dekalb—Mike Heath, (806) 780-7764; Bennie Pickrell (806) 385-3763, <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	DK47*	3	DK39Y	2	DK28E	2
DK65	4	DK45*	3	DK38Y (2)	3		
DK56	2	DK44	1	DK36*	3		
DK55	3	DK43A	3				
DK54*	3	DK41Y	4				
DK53	2	DK40Y	3				

(1) Do not plant later than June 15. (2) Do not plant later than July 1.

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, Inc.—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—Joe Barnes, (806) 293-8422, <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-512	2	H-471*	2	H-388W	2	H-296W*	2
		H-495W	2	H-403*	2		
		H-499Y	2	H-430Y	3		
		H-502	2	H-393*	2		
		H-505BW	2	H-390W	2		
		H-483*	2				

COMPANY: NC+ Hybrids—David Rohrbach, (806) 676.9077, <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+7W97	3	NC+7B29*	2	NC+6B50*	4	NC+4R48	4
NC+8R18	3	NC+271	3	NC+6R21	3	NC+5C35	3
NC+7W51	3	NC+371	3	NC+6R30*	3	NC+5B74E*	2
NC+7R83*	2	NC+7C49	3	NC+262	2		
		NC+7R37E	3	NC+6B70	4		
		NC+7B47*	3	NC+6B67*	3		
		NC+7Y57-K	3	NC+Y363	2		
		NC+6C69	3	NC+5B89	3		

COMPANY: Pioneer—David Peterson, (806) 789-8326, <http://www.pioneer.com>

June 10 - 20		June 21 - 30		July 1 - 7		July 8 - 15	
Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#	Hybrid	Tillering#
8310	3	8414	2	8699	3	8950	3
84G62*	3	8522Y	3	87G57	3	8925	3
83G66	3	8500*	2	86G71	2	8875	3
8212Y	3	84G82	3				
		85G85	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#
JOWAR-1	2	9200Y	2	RS200E	2	SPRINT II	2
		9212Y	2	RS250E	2	SPRINT E	3
		9300	2	9200Y	2	DASH E	3
		9322	2	202CR	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#
K59-Y2	3	K35-Y5*	3	2030	2	251	2

KS560Y*	2	KS524	2	KS585*	2	KS310*	2
KS710	2						

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	TR459	1	TR430	3		
TR481	2	TR462	3	TR432*	2		
Two 80-D	3	TR438	3				
TR474	3	TR60G	3				
TR65G	3	TR447	3				
TR464	3	TR445	3				

COMPANY: UAP Seed—Robert Prince, (318) 728-9041, <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 752B*	3	DG 740C	2		
DG 760C	3	DG 762B*	2	DG 730B*	3		

COMPANY: Warner Seeds—Bill Lyles, (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-624-Y	2	W-588-Y	2	W-528-W	2	W-494	2
W-625-Y	2	W-614-W	3	W-560-T	2		
W-632-W	3	W-622-E	3	W-664-T	2		
W-816-E	3	W-644-E	3				
W-818-E	2						
W-839-DR*	3						
W-844-E	3						
W-851-DR*	3						
W-858-E*	2						
W-876-DR	2						
W-902-W	2						
W-965-E*	2						
