

Advantages of Leafy™ Corn Silage Varieties

Leafy corn silage hybrids are bred and developed specifically for making more and better quality silage:

- **Higher Silage Yield (more total silage biomass)**
- Leafy EXEL was the highest yielding variety in the British Columbia silage trial for three years
- In Ontario trials, Leafy EXEL was 106% higher yielding than competitors averaged over three years (see Fig.1)
- **More leaves above the ear**
- 9-11 leaves above the ear
- Leaves are more digestible and contain more protein
- Grain to stover ratio is similar to grain/dual purpose types

- **Leafy corn silage types are more digestible**
- **The kernel is less vitreous and the interior starch is more digestible**
- Kernels do not pass through the digestive tract undigested
- **Leafy silage is highly palatable**
- This makes for a very low rate of refusal
- **Leafy hybrids dry down slower and have a better balance of plant and grain harvest readiness**
- You can easily harvest at optimum stage for quality

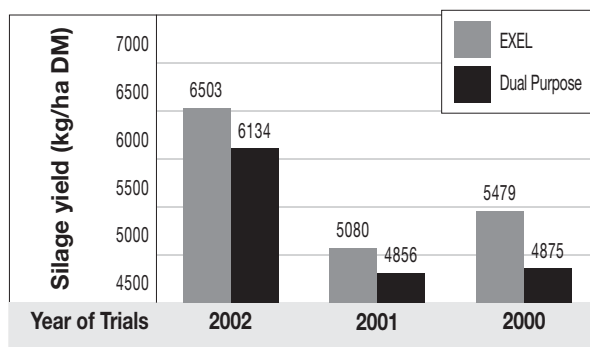
PICKSEED Corn Trial Silage Quality Evaluation

- 3% more NDFD
- 16% more Starch
- 3% more NEL
- 5% more Milk/acre

These replicated, multi-year results are similar to those obtained by Cherney et al. 2004 at Cornell University. In this trial the leafy corn hybrid had:

- 7% more DMI
- 2% more highly digestible fibre
- 1% more Crude Protein
- Higher sugar content
- 8% more Milk/acre

Fig.1: Leafy Hybrids Yield More



Source: Summary of Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs and Ontario Soil and Crops & Improvement Association data.

Characteristic	Ideal Silage Hybrid	Ideal Grain Hybrid
Grain	Grain with large kernels and soft starch that is highly digestible by livestock	Compact starch for high bushel weight and hard capped kernel to stand up to shipping
Dry Down	Greater synchrony between grain maturation and whole plant moisture reduction	High grain yields with fast dry down and good plant stay green
Stalks	Selected for higher digestibility and high dry matter yields at lower populations, flexible stalks with thinner stalk rinds	Bred for standability and high plant populations; high lignin, stiff stalks
Plant Height	Taller plant with more leaves above the ear for longer photosynthesis and more soluble sugars in the plant	Generally compact or medium in height so there is less trash and more efficient plant function
Extra Leaves	9-11 leaves above the ear - more suited to high forage yields with greater palatability	Generally 5-6 leaves above the ear - adequate for grain yields

The real test of silage performance is how milk production is affected. We know from the work of Thomas et al., 2001 and Clark et al., 2002 that milk production increases when feeding a Leafy corn silage rather than a grain type corn silage. This is a clear indication of the cow's response to using leafy corn silage, and we can expect that whether the cow is producing milk or beef, the advantage will be there. (References available upon request.)