

## BECK'S Early Plant™ Corn Technology and Planting Date Study - 2004

**Location:** N2 plot  
**Harvested:** October 22, 2004  
**Rows:** 30" rows  
**Population:** 29,500 – 31,500 seeds/A.

**Previous Crop:** Soybeans  
**Tillage:** S-tine  
**Herbicide:** PPI: 2.3 qts. Bicep II Magnum /  
 1 qt. Princep  
 Post: 3 oz. Callisto / 1 qt. Aatrex  
 3 oz. Hornet  
**Insecticide:** Aztec

RAINFALL	
April	1.2 in.
May	5.2 in.
June	7.4 in.
July	2.8 in.
August	<u>3.5 in.</u>
Total	20.1 in.

Note: All hybrids treated with FaStart in this study

**Purpose:** We know from our Practical Farm Research that earlier planted corn generally has greater yield potential than later planted corn. As farm size increases, it becomes a challenge to plant all acres in a timely manner. Beck's and Landec Ag are working together to bring Beck's customers the latest in seed coating technology, Intellicoat Early Plant™. This polymer technology controls the germination of seed and provides protection from chilling injury in harsh early soil environments to enable early planting even in cold conditions. Intellicoat Early Plant™ technology enables farmers to take advantage of suitable field working days that occur two to three weeks prior to traditional planting dates.

With Early Plant™ corn technology, farmers are offered the opportunity of planting a portion of their fields early when the potential for high yields is greater.

Planting Date	Brand-Hybrid	Harvested Population	Test Weight	Percent Broken Stalks	Percent Moisture	Bushels* Per Acre
Apr. 3	BECK 6197 Early Plant™	27,500	56.0	0.0	18.0	272.9
Apr. 3	BECK 5422 Early Plant™	30,500	57.0	0.0	17.1	264.0
Apr. 3	BECK 5322CB Early Plant™	<u>30,500</u>	<u>57.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>16.2</u>	<u>245.4</u>
	AVERAGE	29,500	56.7	0.0	17.1	260.8
Apr. 3	BECK 5422	31,500	57.5	0.0	17.1	287.7
Apr. 3	BECK 6197	32,000	56.5	0.0	18.8	270.2
Apr. 3	BECK 5322CB	<u>29,000</u>	<u>57.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>16.5</u>	<u>264.6</u>
	AVERAGE	30,833	57.0	0.0	17.5	274.2
Apr. 9	BECK 6197 Early Plant™	30,500	57.5	0.0	18.1	288.1
Apr. 9	BECK 5322CB Early Plant™	<u>30,000</u>	<u>56.5</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>17.6</u>	<u>259.7</u>
	AVERAGE	30,250	57.0	0.0	17.9	273.9
Apr. 9	BECK 6197	30,000	56.5	0.0	17.7	262.1
Apr. 9	BECK 5322CB	<u>30,000</u>	<u>57.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>16.6</u>	<u>257.7</u>
	AVERAGE	30,000	56.8	0.0	17.2	259.9
Apr. 15	BECK 6197 Early Plant™	30,000	57.0	0.0	19.4	264.4
Apr. 15	BECK 5322CB Early Plant™	<u>30,000</u>	<u>57.5</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>18.0</u>	<u>249.5</u>
	AVERAGE	30,000	57.3	0.0	18.7	257.0
Apr. 15	BECK 6197	30,500	57.0	0.0	18.8	254.8
Apr. 15	BECK 5322CB	<u>31,000</u>	<u>56.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>16.9</u>	<u>237.0</u>
	AVERAGE	30,750	56.5	0.0	17.9	245.9
May 1	BECK 6197	31,000	55.0	0.0	20.8	274.9
May 1	BECK 5322CB	<u>30,000</u>	<u>57.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>18.5</u>	<u>224.7</u>
	AVERAGE	30,500	56.0	0.0	19.7	249.8
May 14	BECK 6197	31,500	55.0	0.0	25.4	228.7
May 14	BECK 5322CB	<u>30,500</u>	<u>57.5</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>20.2</u>	<u>203.0</u>
	AVERAGE	31,000	56.3	0.0	22.8	215.9
June 1	BECK 6197	26,000	54.0	0.0	29.2	161.6
June 1	BECK 5322CB	<u>25,000</u>	<u>53.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>28.4</u>	<u>153.2</u>
	AVERAGE	25,500	53.5	0.0	28.8	157.4

\*Bushels per acre corrected to 15% moisture.

## BECK'S Early Plant™ Corn Technology and Planting Date Study - (continued) - 2004

### Summary:

The long-term average at our Central Indiana research site has shown that early April is the highest yielding time to plant corn. Yields gradually decline after late April. In 2004, the early April planted corn had greater yields than later planting dates. Emergence was excellent for early April planting due to unusually warm and dry weather conditions.



Corn coated with Intellicoat technology showed no advantage on our April 3 planting date. It did, however, prove successful on the following two April plantings, April 9 and April 15 (14.0 and 11.1 bushels per acre advantage, respectively).

Farmers can realize the greatest advantage for Early Plant™ technology by comparing to yields on later planting dates. Avoiding late planting is the real time saving exchange that the farmer is making by using Early Plant™ technology. In our test, the yield advantage was over 67 bushels per acre in 2003 and 2004 for using Early Plant™ technology in late March or early April compared to our mid to late May and early June plantings.

Early Plant™ technology is an additional \$35 dollars per unit. If market corn price is \$2.25 per bushel, then 5-6 bushels of added yield will pay for the technology.

The best planting time for the Early Plant™ corn is 2-3 weeks before the normal planting date for your area. We think late March is the right time to plant in Central Indiana to get the full benefits of this technology.

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“A normal planting season gives us early, mid-season, and late planting windows. The Early Plant™ technology has allowed us to shift more of our acres into the “highest yielding” planting window. Planted March 15, 2004, we placed Early Plant corn over 80 acres and three different soil types this year. Thirty-eight acres of our best soil produced 242.2 bushel per acre. And we were very satisfied with 189.4 bushels per acre that we received on our roughest ground that is mostly clay hills and was no-till. We plan on increasing our acres dedicated to Early Plant™ corn next year.”

Mike and Bryan Hirsch  
Ft. Branch, IN