

*Performance of Grain Sorghum
Hybrids in Louisiana 2017*



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Performance of Grain Sorghum Hybrids in Louisiana, 2017

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Performance of grain sorghum hybrids is annually evaluated by Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station (LAES) researchers in Official Variety Trials (OVT's). The purpose of these trials is to provide to Louisiana growers, seedsmen, county agents of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service (LCES), and other interested individuals and organizations with unbiased performance data for commercial grain sorghum hybrids submitted for evaluation by private agencies.

The cooperating LAES units in 2017 were: Rice Research Station, Crowley; Central Research Station, Baton Rouge; Dean Lee Research Station, Alexandria; Red River Research Station, Bossier City; Northeast Research Station, St. Joseph; and Macon Ridge Research Station, Winnsboro.

PROCEDURES

In 2017, twenty-one grain sorghum hybrids were entered in the LAES yield trials. Soil type, cultural practices, location summaries, and weather graphs are listed prior to data tables for each location. In weather graphs, maximum and minimum temperatures are weekly averages and rainfall weekly totals. Only the St. Joseph trial was irrigated. The Crowley and Alexandria trials were lost to excessive summer rains.

The experimental design at each location was a randomized complete block design with four or five replications. Traits measured and rating scales are listed in Table 1. Traits not listed in Table 1 are footnoted at the base of the respective table. Analysis of variance and least significant differences (LSD) were computed using SAS (Statistical Analysis System). We used the protected F-test, which means LSD's were calculated only if differences among hybrids existed at the 90% confidence level. If differences were significant, an LSD at the 10% probability level was calculated. If the LSD (0.10) for yield in a trial is 400 lb/acre, there is a 10% chance that two hybrids with a reported yield difference of 400 lb/acre are genetically equal and a 90% probability they have differences in genetic potential in that particular environment. LSD values are influenced by how well soil fertility, stand establishment, plot length, harvest efficiency, and other variables are controlled and by number of replications for each hybrid. The letters NS are used in the text and tables to indicate lack of significance (not significantly different) at the 10% probability level. The coefficient of variation (CV) reflects

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the magnitude of experimental error (random variation not accounted for by hybrids and replications) in relation to the trial mean. A high CV means that relative differences among hybrids were not consistent among replications, which reduces the precision of the test.

Table 1. Traits and rating scales for 2017 LAES grain sorghum official variety trials.

Trait	Abbreviation	Description
Yield	Yield	Grain yield @ 14.0% harvest grain moisture, bu/acre (2017)
2-year yield average	2- Yr avg	Average grain yield for 2016 and 2017, bu/acre
Grain moisture	Gr mo	Grain moisture at harvest, %
Test weight	Test wt	Volume weight of grain, lb/bu
Heading date	Mid-head	Date of head emergence in 50% of plants, days after planting (DAP)
Plant height	Plt ht	Height from ground to top of head, inches (in)
Head type	Head type	Head type is a measure of head architecture, with ratings of 1-5; 1-closed, 3-intermediate, and 5-open
Head exertion	Head exert	Distance from flag leaf to base of head, inches (in)
Midge damage	Midge	Average percent of head damaged, %
Bird damage	Bird	Average percent of head damaged, %

RESULTS

Yield data for 2017 and two-year averages (2016 and 2017) and other agronomic data for each location are presented in Tables 2-5. Yields for the hybrids in the highest-yielding group for 2017 (yields falling within one LSD value) are in bold print. Hybrids in bold print with a single asterisk are in the highest-yielding group for both years, 2016 and 2017. A summary of yield performance for twenty-one hybrids at four locations is presented in Table 6. In Table 7, participating seed companies are listed. There were five seed companies that participated in the 2017 grain sorghum official variety trials.

For additional information on grain sorghum trials, please contact Dr. Rick Mascagni, NERS (Ph: 318-766-3769); e:mail: hmascagni@agcenter.lsu.edu) or Dr. Dan Fromme, DLRS (Ph:318-427-4424; e:mail: dfromme@agcenter.lsu.edu)

Grain Sorghum Hybrid Performance Trial at the Central Research Station - Baton Rouge

Location Summary

Growing season was very wet (see chart below), resulting in low grain yields (12.6-65.1 bu/acre) (Table 2). High rainfall resulted in low uptake of topdress N for several weeks after application. Additionally, Anthracnose was severe for some hybrids across the three rating dates (Table 2) with a highly significant negative correlation (-0.88**) between Anthracnose ratings and grain yield. Anthracnose pressure led to premature death and lodging of some susceptible hybrids. The relatively late mid-head dates was also probably partly due to wet soil conditions and poor fertilizer N uptake efficiency.

Soil type	Commerce silt loam
Row spacing	30-inch
Seeding rate	80,000 seed/acre (4.6 seed/ft)
Previous crop	Grain Sorghum
Planting date	April 26
Fertilization	<i>Sidedressed:</i> 110 lb N/acre as 20-20-4-2 (liquid) (5/25)
Pesticides	<i>Pre-emerge:</i> 2 qt Atrazine/acre, 1.5 pt Dual/acre (4/27); <i>Insecticides:</i> 1 oz Transform/acre, 6 oz Waylay/acre (6/27);
Harvest date	August 21

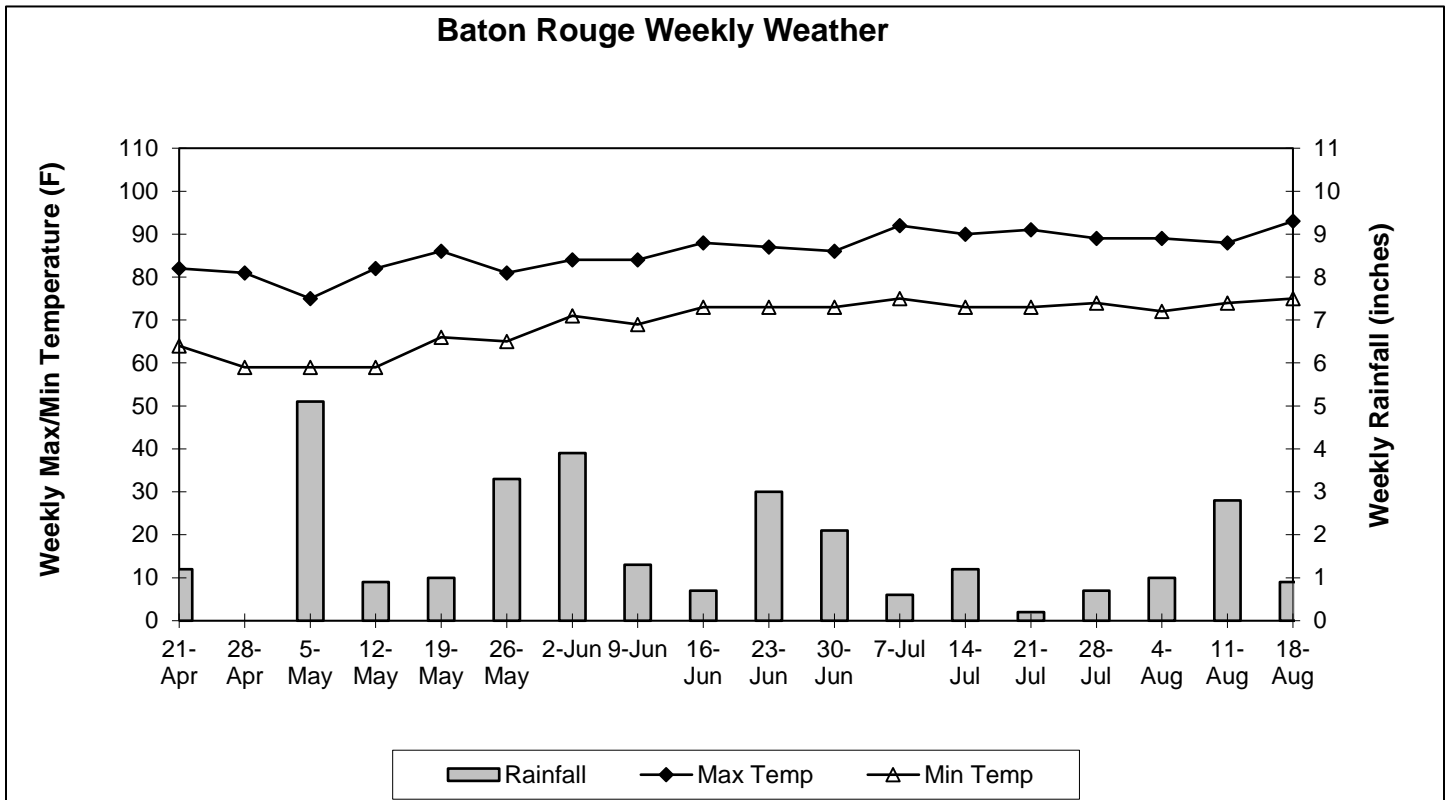


Table 2. Performance of grain sorghum hybrids at Baton Rouge, 2017.

Brand	Hybrid	2017	GrMo	Test wt	Mid-head	Anth1 ²	Anth2 ²	Anth3 ²
		Yield ¹						
		bu/a	%	lb/bu	DAP	0-9	0-9	0-9
Sorghum Partners	SP7715	65.1	16.5	57.1	70	3.0	3.0	3.5
Dyna-Gro	M73GB55	64.0	18.7	54.9	80	2.0	2.0	3.0
Pioneer	P83P17	62.1	18.1	52.3	80	3.0	3.0	3.5
Dyna-Gro	GX16833	59.9	15.7	55.6	72	2.5	3.0	3.5
Sorghum Partners	SP78M30	58.6	16.4	52.4	78	2.5	2.5	3.5
Dyna-Gro	GX15371	55.8	15.3	55.5	74	1.5	2.0	3.5
Dyna-Gro	GX16855	54.1	15.3	51.3	74	2.5	4.5	6.0
DEKALB	DKS 51-01	52.0	15.8	53.1	78	2.5	3.5	3.5
Sorghum Partners	SP7868	51.8	17.0	56.5	73	2.5	3.0	3.0
Chromatin	CHROL0029	51.5	17.4	53.5	80	2.5	2.5	3.5
Dyna-Gro	M74GB17	50.7	14.7	47.1	77	3.0	4.0	5.5
Chromatin	CHROL2042	48.8	14.7	47.8	78	2.5	3.0	5.0
Dyna-Gro	GX17818	46.1	15.1	48.6	82	4.0	4.5	5.5
Terral Seed	REV 9782	43.7	16.5	55.4	74	5.0	6.0	6.0
Sorghum Partners	NK6638	32.4	15.6	50.7	73	2.5	2.5	3.0
DEKALB	DKS 53-53	30.2	17.1	51.3	77	4.5	5.5	6.0
Dyna-Gro	M60GB31	26.8	14.3	42.2	76	7.5	8.0	8.0
Pioneer	P84P80	20.3	14.7	48.1	73	7.0	7.5	9.0
Terral Seed	REV 9562	20.2	14.7	48.0	76	5.5	7.0	8.5
Terral Seed	REV 9924	18.2	14.7	45.1	76	5.5	6.5	8.0
Pioneer	P83P99	12.6	15.2	47.0	76	8.0	8.0	9.0
Average		44.0	15.8	50.8	76	3.9	4.5	5.4
CV, %		23	7	4	2	29	26	25
LSD (0.10)		11.7	1.3	2.7	2	2.0	2.0	2.3

¹Yields in bold denote hybrids that were in the highest-yielding group in 2017. No 2-yr averages because trial data was not reported in 2016.

²Anth1, 2 and 3=Anthracnose ratings, 0-9, depicted symptoms on total plant, July 17, July 27 and August 8. Mid-head date was approximately July 10.

Grain Sorghum Hybrid Performance Trial at the Red River Research Station – Bossier City

Location Summary

Rainfall was well distributed, except for the latter part of July (see below). Grain yields ranged from 77.5 to 102.2 bu/acre (Table 3). Only one hybrid had yields greater than 100 bu/acre. There were 14 hybrids with 2-year averages. Eight hybrids were in the highest-yielding group in 2016 and only one hybrid that had superior yields both years, 2016 and 2017. Other agronomic data are presented in Table 3. There was moderate bird damage in this trial.

Soil type	Latanier clay
Row spacing	40 inches
Seeding rate	80,000 seed/acre (6.1 seed/ft)
Previous crop	Cotton
Planting date	May 2
Fertilization	<i>Sidedress</i> : 160 lb N/acre (30-0-0-2)
Pesticides	<i>Preemerg</i> : 30 oz Liberty/a, 1 pt Dual Magnum/a, 1.5 qt Atrazine/a (5/2); <i>Postemerg</i> : 1 pt Outlook/a, 2 qt Atrazine/a (6/2); <i>Insecticides</i> : 2 oz Karate/a, 0.25 lb Orthene/a (7/20);
Harvest date	August 21

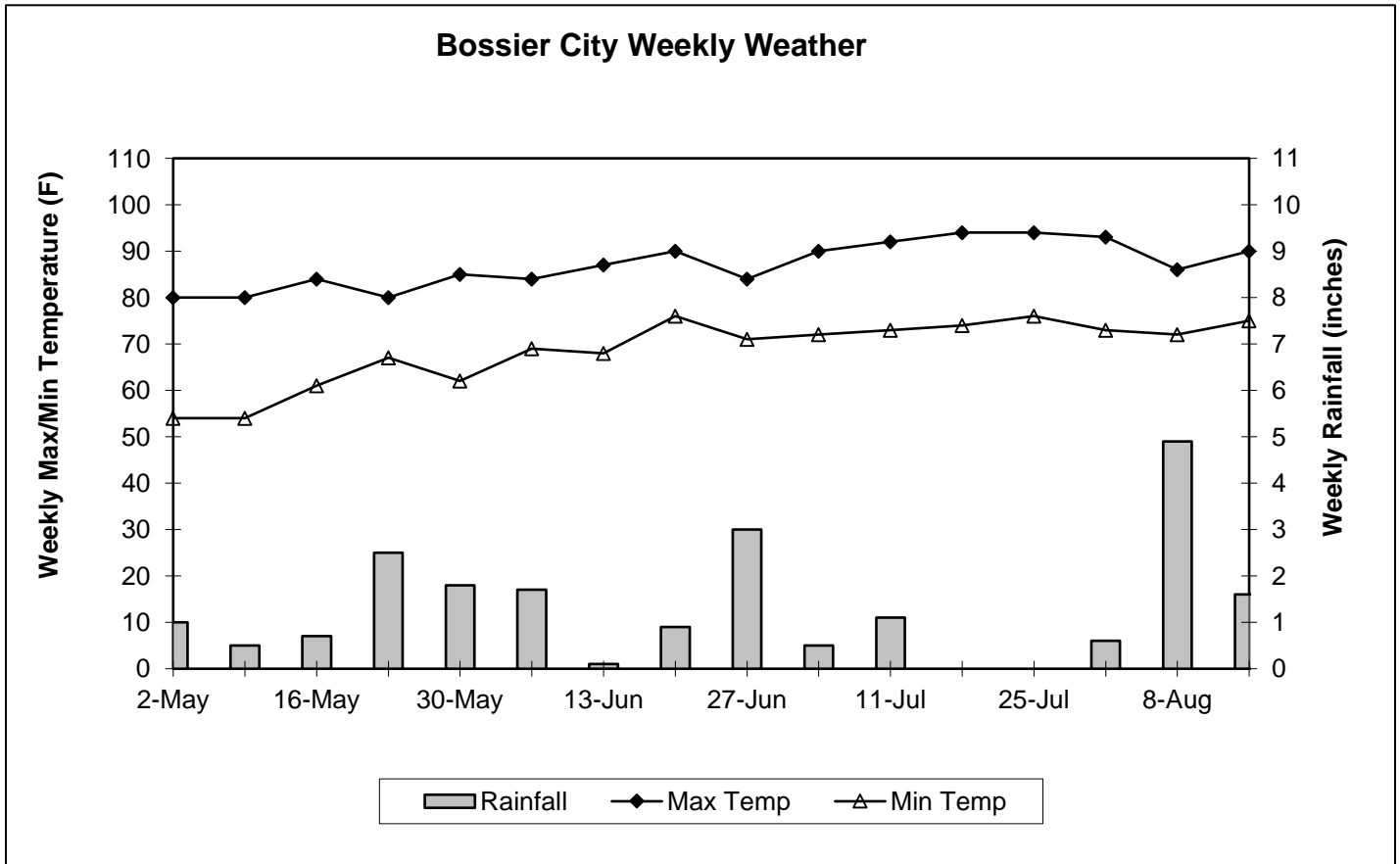


Table 3. Performance of grain sorghum hybrids at Bossier City, 2017.

Brand	Hybrid	2017 Yield ¹ bu/a	2-Yr avg ² bu/a	Gr mo %	Test wt lb/bu	Mid-head DAP	Plt ht in	Head exert in	Head type 1-5	Bird %
Sorghum Partners	SP7715	102.2	95.3	17.2	56.7	59	64	7	3	20
Dyna-Gro	GX15371	97.9	-	15.8	56.9	61	65	5	3	10
Chromatin	CHROL0029	97.8	87.3	16.4	54.2	62	59	6	3	10
Pioneer	P83P17	95.4	91.3	21.3	53.2	63	63	7	3	15
Dyna-Gro	GX17818	94.1	-	18.4	55.1	64	56	5	3	5
Sorghum Partners	SP78M30	93.5	87.9	16.3	53.3	62	58	7	2	10
Dyna-Gro	M74GB17	92.7	-	19.2	55.4	59	63	7	3	25
DEKALB	DKS 53-53*	91.5	94.4	17.1	53.5	60	60	5	3	15
Terral Seed	REV 9562	85.8	87.3	16.0	55.7	55	58	7	3	20
Sorghum Partners	SP7868	85.6	78.1	16.7	56.7	60	62	10	4	10
Terral Seed	REV 9782	85.5	82.4	15.9	55.7	58	58	6	3	10
Dyna-Gro	GX16833	85.2	-	17.9	55.9	62	63	5	3	5
Chromatin	CHROL2042	85.1	82.8	16.5	56.3	57	62	5	3	20
DEKALB	DKS 51-01	83.8	95.2	15.5	55.8	57	66	8	3	5
Dyna-Gro	M60GB31	83.3	-	15.5	55.7	57	55	7	1	10
Dyna-Gro	GX16855	83.0	-	19.6	54.1	63	68	5	3	10
Sorghum Partners	NK6638	82.6	88.6	15.0	54.6	56	60	7	1	30
Terral Seed	REV 9924	79.1	81.4	15.0	53.7	58	64	5	3	25
Pioneer	P84P80	78.9	82.9	19.2	54.5	57	63	8	3	25
Dyna-Gro	M73GB55	78.9	-	18.0	55.2	65	58	4	3	5
Pioneer	P83P99	77.5	80.7	15.9	54.4	62	57	8	3	15
Average		87.2		17.1	55.0	60	61	7	3	15
CV, %		9		12	2	3	4	36	21	47
LSD (0.10)		11.0		2.8	1.6	2	3	NS³	1	10

¹Yields in bold denote hybrids that were in the highest-yielding group in 2017.

²Hybrid in bold with an asterisk (*) was in the highest-yielding group for both years, 2016 and 2017.

³NS=Statistically non-significant at the 0.10 probability level.

Grain Sorghum Hybrid Performance Trial at the Northeast Research Station – St. Joseph

Location Summary

This trial was planted late (June 12) due to the need of a replant. Rainfall was about normal, except for July (see below) when one furrow-irrigation was applied. Grain yields ranged from 78.9 to 113.70 bu/acre with a trial average of 97.0 bu/acre (Table 4). Nine hybrids had grain yields greater than 100 bu/acre with three hybrids falling in the highest-yielding group for 2016. No hybrid had superior yields for both years, 2016 and 2017. Harvestable heads across hybrids ranged from 30,520 to 65,400 heads/acre with a trial average of 52,420 heads/acre.

Soil type	Sharkey silty clay
Row spacing	40 inches
Seeding rate	80,000 seed/acre (6.1 seed/ft)
Previous crop	Soybeans
Planting date	June 12
Fertilization	<i>Sidedressed:</i> 120 lb N/acre (30-0-0-11) (topdressed, 7/3)
Pesticides	<i>Pre-emerge:</i> 21 oz Cinch/a, 2 qt Atrazine/a (May 11); 1 pt Firezone/a, 3 pt Gramoxone/a (May 28); <i>Insecticides:</i> 4 oz Sivam/a (Aug 15);
Irrigation	Furrow-irrigated – July 20
Harvest date	October 3

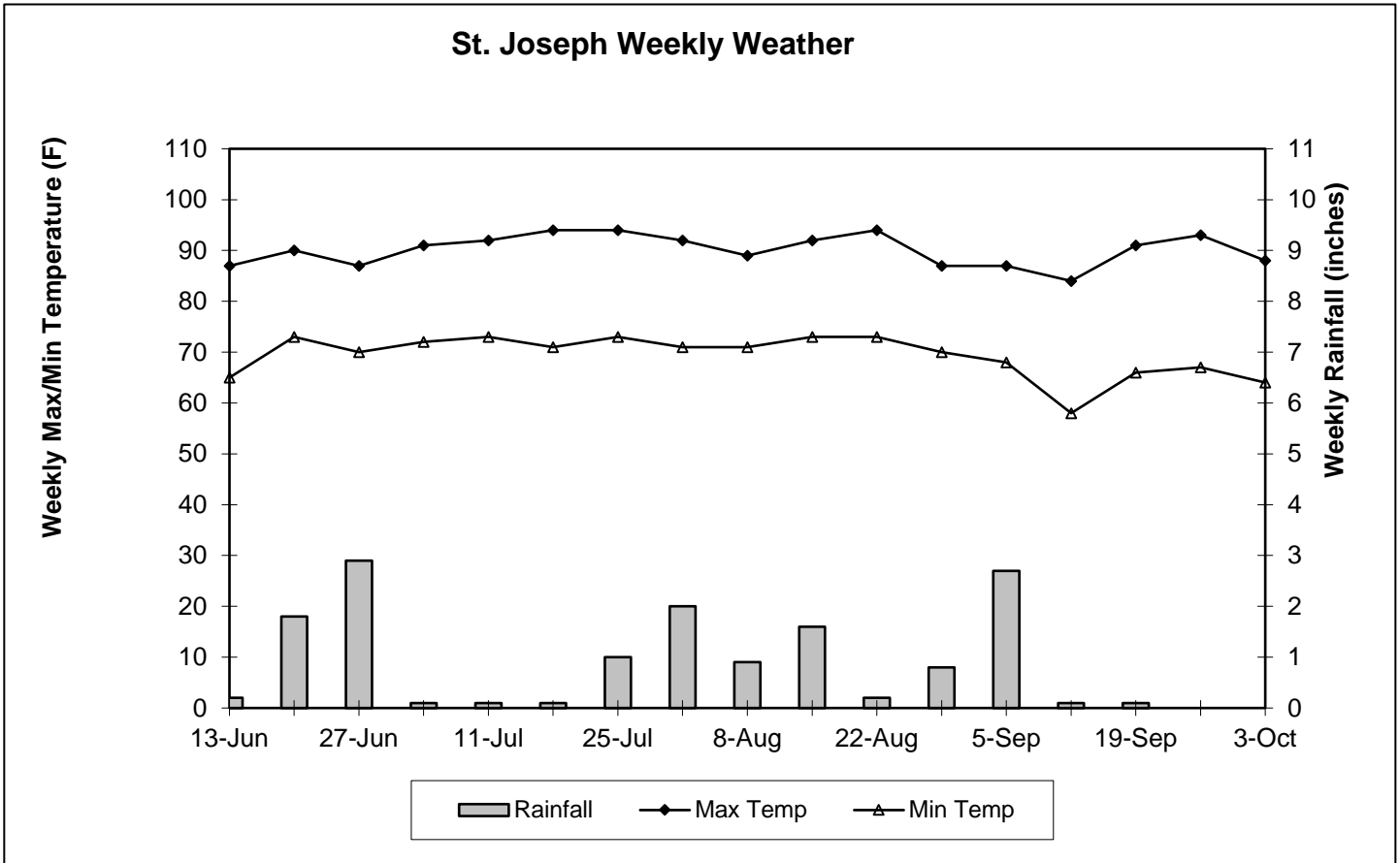


Table 4. Performance of grain sorghum hybrids at St. Joseph, 2017.

Brand	Hybrid	2017 Yield¹ bu/a	2-Yr avg² bu/a	Gr mo %	Test wt lb/bu	Heads no/a	Plt ht in	Head exert in	Head type 1-5
Dyna-Gro	M73GB55	113.7	-	19.3	56.3	54,500	55	2	3
Dyna-Gro	M60GB31	111.7	-	17.7	57.3	49,050	56	3	3
Dyna-Gro	GX16833	103.3	-	17.1	58.8	38,150	57	2	2
Dyna-Gro	GX16855	102.9	-	16.0	59.0	43,600	61	1	3
Sorghum Partners	SP7868	102.7	87.0	17.6	58.3	53,410	57	5	2
Dyna-Gro	GX15371	102.0	-	17.3	59.2	59,950	58	4	2
Dyna-Gro	M74GB17	101.7	-	17.3	57.6	63,220	60	6	3
Pioneer	P83P17	100.7	106.2	18.3	55.6	54,500	58	4	4
DEKALB	DKS 51-01	100.3	100.5	18.7	58.2	55,590	56	4	4
Dyna-Gro	GX17818	97.3	-	20.3	56.4	46,870	53	5	3
DEKALB	DKS 53-53	96.5	108.6	18.2	57.4	61,040	58	3	3
Pioneer	P83P99	95.3	94.6	17.2	58.6	65,400	53	2	3
Sorghum Partners	SP7715	95.2	98.7	18.2	58.2	55,590	57	5	3
Chromatin	CHROL0029	95.2	89.3	19.7	56.4	51,230	56	4	3
Pioneer	P84P80	94.5	102.8	17.3	58.5	57,770	52	3	3
Terral Seed	REV 9562	94.0	98.4	16.4	58.1	54,500	53	5	4
Sorghum Partners	SP78M30	93.4	87.1	17.2	57.1	50,140	58	5	3
Chromatin	CHROL2042	93.1	100.1	18.0	56.3	30,520	58	7	3
Terral Seed	REV 9924	85.3	101.4	16.0	57.9	55,590	56	4	4
Terral Seed	REV 9782	80.6	92.2	16.4	57.8	55,590	53	4	3
Sorghum Partners	NK6638	78.9	85.9	16.7	57.1	51,230	56	5	4
Average		97.0		17.7	57.6	52,420	56	4	3
CV, %		9		3	1	21	4	54	14
LSD (0.10)		10.7		0.5	1.3	NS³	3	NS	1

¹Yields in bold denote hybrids that were in the highest-yielding group in 2017.

²No hybrid fell into the highest-yielding group for both years, 2016 and 2017.

³NS=Statistically non-significant at the 0.10 probability level.

Grain Sorghum Hybrid Performance Trial at the Macon Ridge Research Station - Winnsboro

Location Summary

Rainfall was fairly well distributed (see graph below), even though grain yields were relatively low (Table 5). Grain yields in this dryland trial ranged from 24.4 to 92.5 bu/acre with a trial average of 58.4 bu/acre. No hybrid had yield of 100 bu/acre or greater. Two hybrids were in the highest-yielding group for 2016 and no hybrid had superior yields both years, 2016 and 2017. Other agronomic data are presented in Table 5. Foliar disease ratings late in the growing season were relatively low.

Soil type	Gigger silt loam
Row spacing	40-inches
Seeding rate	80,000 seed/acre (6.1 seed/ft)
Previous crop	Sweet potatoes
Planting date	April 27
Fertilization	<i>Sidedress</i> : 120 lb N/acre as 30-0-0-2 (2-leaf)
Pesticides	<i>Pre-emerge</i> : 1 pt Dual/a, 1 qt Atazine/a; <i>Post-emerge</i> : 1 pt Gramoxone/a, 1 qt Atrazine/a;
Harvest date	August 22

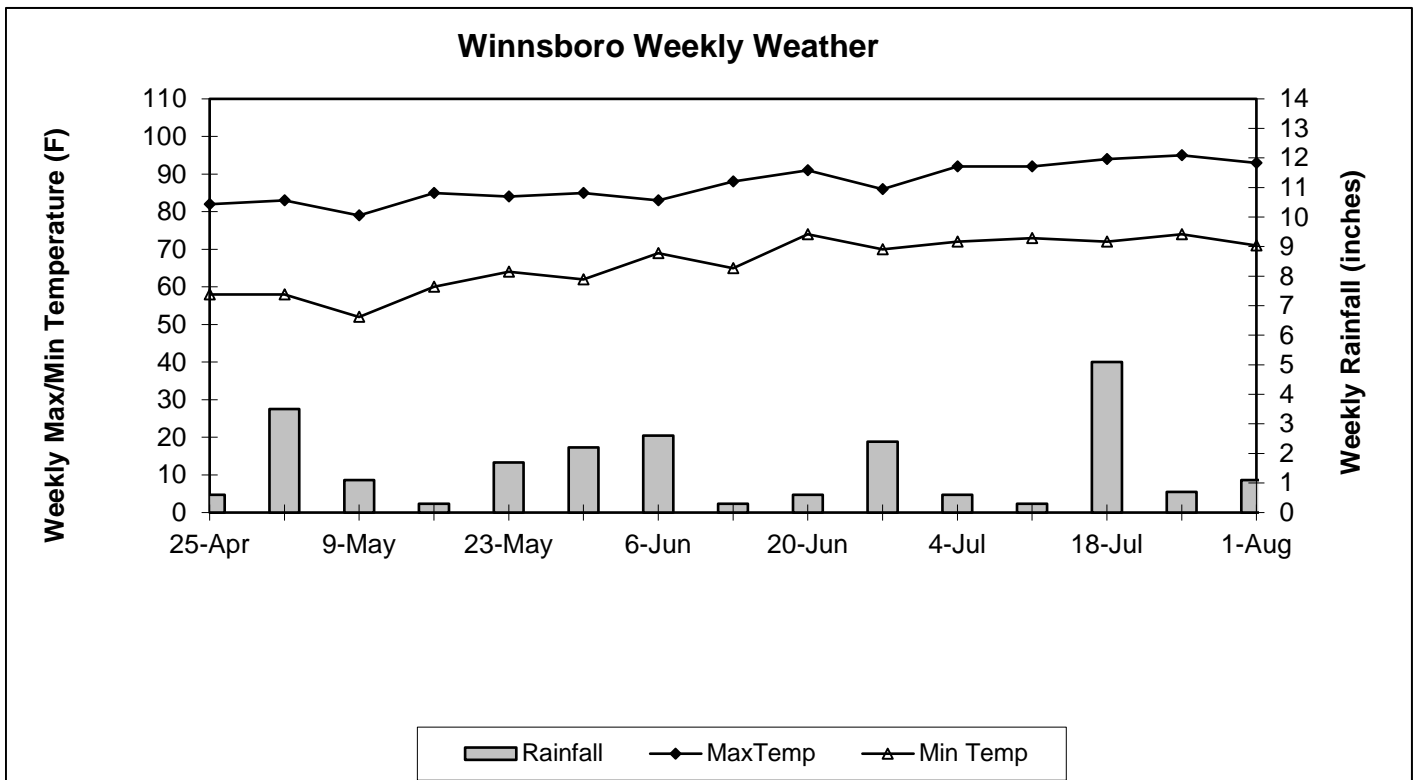


Table 5. Performance of grain sorghum hybrids at Winnsboro, 2017.

Brand	Hybrid	2017 Yield ¹ bu/a	2-Yr avg ² bu/a	Gr mo %	Test wt lb/bu	Mid-head DAP	Plt ht in	Head exert in	Head type 0-5	Midge %	Ant ³ 0-9	ZLS ⁴ 0-9
Dyna-Gro	M73GB55	92.5	-	13.5	58.2	69	63	2	2	0	1	1
DEKALB	DKS 51-01	80.0	67.7	13.3	58.1	67	66	7	2	5	1	1
DEKALB	DKS 53-53	74.8	72.5	13.1	57.1	66	62	5	3	5	2	2
Pioneer	P83P17	74.3	69.6	15.0	53.2	68	62	3	3	0	1	1
Sorghum Partners	SP7868	71.6	47.3	13.7	58.3	68	56	6	2	0	1	1
Dyna-Gro	GX17818	67.5	-	12.9	57.6	69	56	4	3	0	4	1
Sorghum Partners	SP7715	62.7	54.1	13.2	58.2	66	58	6	2	0	1	2
Terral Seed	REV 9924	60.3	57.8	14.1	54.5	65	60	3	2	15	3	1
Dyna-Gro	GX16855	59.5	-	14.1	54.4	67	67	3	3	0	1	1
Sorghum Partners	SP78M30	59.0	52.9	15.0	52.3	68	55	8	2	10	1	1
Dyna-Gro	GX15371	58.3	-	13.5	57.6	68	65	4	2	0	2	1
Terral Seed	REV 9782	57.3	58.2	13.3	57.2	66	58	4	3	5	1	4
Sorghum Partners	NK6638	57.0	48.9	12.9	55.9	66	58	5	3	0	1	2
Dyna-Gro	GX16833	56.8	-	13.6	56.9	66	62	2	2	0	2	2
Pioneer	P83P99	53.3	59.7	13.1	54.7	67	58	2	2	5	4	1
Dyna-Gro	M74GB17	41.5	-	13.1	52.8	67	60	4	2	5	2	1
Chromatin	CHROL0029	40.9	46.5	12.9	55.4	68	60	5	2	10	1	1
Terral Seed	REV 9562	39.4	43.6	13.5	54.2	65	59	6	3	5	2	1
Dyna-Gro	M60GB31	33.0	-	12.2	55.1	66	54	3	3	0	5	2
Chromatin	CHROL2042	24.4	42.0	14.1	53.5	66	61	7	1	5	1	1
Pioneer	P84P80	-	-	-	-	65	62	4	2	40	1	3
Average		58.4		13.5	55.7	67	60	4	2	5	2	1
CV, %		25		3	4	1	2	43	28	17	47	61
LSD (0.10)		15.2		0.5	3.6	2	2	3	1	10	1	1

¹Yields in bold denote hybrids that were in the highest-yielding group in 2017.

²There were no hybrids in the highest-yielding group for both years, 2016 and 2017.

³Ant=Anthracnose ratings (0-9, with 0 having no symptoms and 9 having severe symptoms) taken on Aug 1 (mid-head, about July 6).

⁴ZLS=Zonate leaf spot (0-9, with 0 having no symptoms and 9 having severe symptoms) taken on Aug 1.

Table 6. Summary of yield performance of grain sorghum hybrids at four locations¹ in the 2017 LAES official variety trials.

Brand	Hybrid	BR	BC	SJ	WN	Avg
		bu/acre				
Terral Seed	REV 9924	18.2	79.1	85.3	60.3	60.7
Terral Seed	REV 9782	43.7	85.5	80.6	57.3	66.8
Terral Seed	REV 9562	20.2	85.8	94.0	39.4	59.9
Pioneer	P83P99	12.6	77.5	95.3	53.3	59.7
Pioneer	P84P80	20.3	78.9	94.5	-	64.6
Pioneer	P83P17	62.1	95.4	100.7	74.3	83.1
Dyna-Gro	M60GB31	26.8	83.3	111.7	33.0	63.7
Dyna-Gro	GX16855	54.1	83.0	102.9	59.5	74.9
Dyna-Gro	GX16833	59.9	85.2	103.3	56.8	76.3
Dyna-Gro	GX17818	46.1	94.1	97.3	67.5	76.3
Dyna-Gro	M73GB55	64.0	78.9	113.7	92.5	87.3
Dyna-Gro	M74GB17	50.7	92.7	101.7	41.5	71.7
Dyna-Gro	GX15371	55.8	97.9	102.0	58.3	78.5
DEKALB	DKS 51-01	52.0	83.8	100.3	80.0	79.0
DEKALB	DKS 53-53	30.2	91.5	96.5	74.8	73.3
Sorghum Partners	SP7715	65.1	102.2	95.2	62.7	81.3
Sorghum Partners	SP78M30	58.6	93.5	93.4	59.0	76.1
Sorghum Partners	NK6638	32.4	82.6	78.9	57.0	62.7
Sorghum Partners	SP7868	51.8	85.6	102.7	71.6	77.9
Chromatin	CHROL2042	48.8	85.1	93.1	24.4	62.9
Chromatin	CHROL0029	51.5	97.8	95.2	40.9	71.4
Average		44.0	87.2	97.0	58.4	

¹BR=Baton Rouge; BC=Bossier City; SJ=St. Joseph; WN=Winnsboro;

Table 7. List of participating seed companies and hybrids tested in the LAES 2017 grain sorghum official variety trials.

Company	Brand/Hybrid
Chromatin, Inc/Sorghum Partners 1301 East 50 th Street Lubbock, TX 79404	Chromatin CHOL0029, Chromatin CHROL2042, Sorghum Partners NK6638, Sorghum Partners SP7715, Sorghum Partners SP7868, Sorghum Partners SP78M30
Crop Production Services/Dyna-Gro Seed 11 Gin Rd Rayville, LA 71269	Dyna-Gro GX15371 (Exp), Dyna-Gro GX16833 (Exp), Dyna-Gro GX16855 (Exp), Dyna-Gro GX17818 (Exp), Dyna-Gro M60GB31, Dyna-Gro M73GB55, Dyna-Gro M74GB17
Dupont/Pioneer 59 Greif Parkway, Suite 200 Delaware, OH 43015	Pioneer 83P99, Pioneer 84P80, Pioneer 83P17
Monsanto/Dekalb 7159 N 247 th W Mt. Hope, KS 67108	DEKALB DKS51-01, DEKALB DKS53-53
Terral Seed, Inc. 117 Ellington Dr. Rayville, LA 71269	Terral Seed REV [®] RV9562 [™] , Terral Seed REV [®] RV9782 [™] , Terral Seed REV [®] RV9924 [™]