

New University of Minnesota soybean varieties

Provide new options for organic producers

ST. PAUL, MN, April 30, 2007—Organic soybean growers will have increased ability to deal with troubling soybean diseases by planting new soybean varieties released by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station. These varieties were developed by conventional breeding techniques and have some disease resistance traits usually only found in soybean varieties not approved for organic production.

Minnesota ranks number one in organic soybean production and produces 20% of all organic soybeans raised in the U.S., according to the USDA. “These new varieties from the University’s plant breeding program provide new options for growers and will help Minnesota organic growers expand their market,” said Beverly R. Durgan, Director, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station and Dean, University of Minnesota Extension.

These three new varieties have demonstrated excellent yield potential in University of Minnesota trials. They were developed by conventional breeding techniques and are classed as non-GMO (genetically modified organism) soybeans since they have not been genetically modified through biotechnology procedures. The newly-released varieties and their specific traits demonstrated in University trials are:

- MN 1410: This variety has good iron chlorosis tolerance, carries the Rps1k gene for phytophthora resistance, has above average protein content, average oil content and a buff hilum (seed coat marking). It has a 1.4 maturity ranking which makes it most adaptable to the south central area of Minnesota. MN 1410 has average height and good lodging resistance.
- MN1011CN: This variety has soybean cyst nematode resistance, carries the Rps1 gene for phytophthora resistance, has good iron chlorosis tolerance, good protein content and a yellow hilum. It is slightly taller than the Surge variety and has a 1.0 maturity ranking which makes it most suitable to central and south central Minnesota.

- MN0101: This variety has very good iron chlorosis tolerance, carries the Rps1 gene for phytophthora resistance, a yellow hilum and above average protein content. With its 0.1 maturity group ranking, MN0101 is best suited for northern soybean producing areas or for growers further south who are replanting or planting soybeans later in the season. It matures one to two days earlier than the slightly shorter Traill variety and has equally good lodging resistance.

These new soybean varieties are the latest releases from the University of Minnesota Soybean Breeding Program led by Jim Orf, professor of agronomy and plant genetics. One focus of Orf's breeding program is developing soybeans that provide better yields, resistance to yield hazards, increased protein levels and breeding varieties with higher oil levels to help fuel the growth of biodiesel. Another focus is developing special purpose soybeans that include specialty soybeans grown under contract and raised specifically for export markets. Some of these specialty market soybeans are grown to be used as soy milk, tofu or natto, a traditional Japanese fermented soybean dish. The size of the seed, protein level, and the taste or texture of the final product plays a key role in selecting a special purpose soybean variety.

Yield information on the new soybean varieties is available at www.maes.umn.edu. All three of these new soybean varieties are distributed through Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) members. Information on MCIA is available through their website (www.mncia.org) or by calling 800-510-6242.

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