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Optimizing Greenhouse Corn Production: Can More than One Plant Be Grown Per Pot?

Robert Eddy
Purdue University, robeddy@purdue.edu

Daniel T. Hahn
Purdue University, dhahn@purdue.edu

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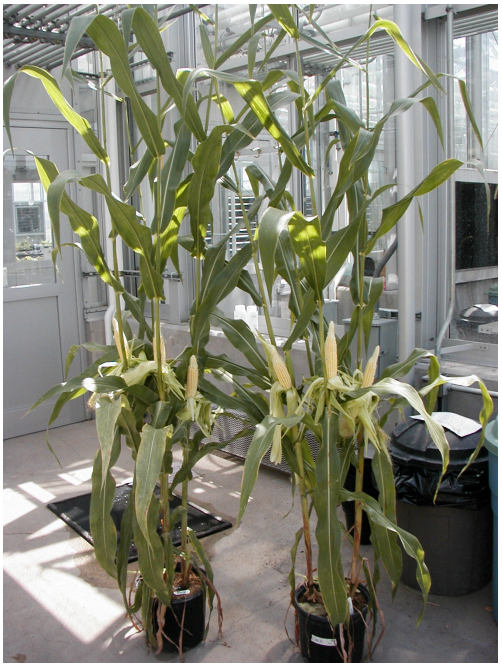
Purdue Methods:
Optimizing Greenhouse Corn Production

Can more than one plant be grown per pot?

In a quick demonstration, we grew 3 and 4 plants in 11.3-liter (3 gallon) nursery containers filled with Turface calcined clay. The plants grew well. In a controlled study using 20-cm diameter pots (see Experiment 5 in our *Materials and Methods* document), two plants per pot resulted in good vegetative growth, but the plants tipped over too easily. Three plants per pot produced non-uniform plants. Controlled Pharming Ventures reported better seed yield per pot using two plants per 20-cm diameter pot compared to one plant in a high light growth room (personal communication). Success will depend upon all the other factors discussed in our reports, particularly proper spacing. Pots with multiple plants would no doubt need to be spaced further apart. Designed properly, the technique might ultimately save on cost of media and drip irrigation emitters, and perhaps reduce water usage.



Three plants per pot produced healthy plants.

This document is based on materials originally posted to the Purdue University HLA Department Plant Growth Facility web site: http://www.hort.purdue.edu/hort/facilities/greenhouse/CornMethod.shtml