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Registration of N547 Maize Germplasm Line

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N547 germplasm line (Reg. no. GP-367, PI 615526) was released by the Agriculture Research Division, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska, on 24 Aug. 1999. N547 is a yellow endosperm maize inbred germplasm with resistance to stalk and shank tunneling damage caused by the second generation of the European corn borer (ECB) *Ostrinia nubilalis* (Hubner).

N547 was derived by selfing a selected full-sib family from MBITA, a tropical population developed by CIMMYT, Mexico. MBITA was created to recombine sources of resistance to temperate and subtropical stalk borers. These insects included ECB, southwestern corn borer (SWCB) *Diatraea grandiosella* (Dyer), sugarcane borer (SCB) *D. sacharalis* (F.), spotted stem borer *Chilo partellus* Swinhoe, pink stem borer *Sesamia calamistis* Hampson, sugarcane borer (African) *Eldana saccharina* Walker, and African maize stalk borer *Busseola fusca* (Fuller) (Smith et al., 1989).

The germplasm line was advanced ear-to-row by self-pollination to S₅ with selection primarily on the basis of resistance to second generation ECB damage, earliness, low plant and ear height, resistance to stalk and root lodging, and resistance to stalk and shank rot.

During the S₁, S₃, and S₅ generations, five to six plants per family were manually infested with ECB larvae. European corn borer resistance was determined by infesting plants with 50 neonate larvae at the ear node, and at the nodes immediately above, and immediately below the ear. The S₅ generation was infested twice at the ear node only. S₂ and S₄ generations were not infested. Stalk and shank injuries were determined by splitting both and counting, the number of tunnels (cavities) per plant. Only plants with no tunneling in either the stalk or the shank (a 0,0 score) were advanced to the next generation. The susceptible check, Mo17, averaged a score of 5 tunnels in the stalk and 1 tunnel in the shank (5,1).

Although N547 contains tropical germplasm, it is adapted to Nebraska. N547 has uniform, open, yellow-reddish tassels, is a good pollen shedder, and it requires 72 d from planting to pollen shedding at Lincoln, NE. Silks are yellow-reddish and their emergence begins two to three days after pollen shed begins. N547 produces uniform and sturdy plants with an average plant height of 1.90 m and ear height of 0.78 m. Ears are conical

shaped, 0.15 to 0.17 m long, and have 12 to 14 kernel rows with relatively small yellow kernels on a white cob. N547 has not been evaluated for disease nor other insect resistance.

N547 is being released for use as germplasm for line development based primarily on its native resistance to ECB. Selfed progeny from the selected S₅ plants were sibbed to increase seed. Seed is currently maintained by sibbing and bulking. Breeder seed is available from the Department of Agronomy, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583-0915. Seed is available free to public sector researchers and for a fee of \$50.00 per 35-kernel sample to private sector researchers. Recipients of the seed should make appropriate recognition of the source of the germplasm if it is used to develop a new germplasm, parental line, or hybrid.

References

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