In the summer of 2012, Organic Valley and Kentucky State University coordinated organic corn variety trials on ten organic farms across Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

The western part of this region suffered moderate to extreme drought for much of the summer.

Short, medium, and full season varieties donated by five organic seed companies were compared at each location. Each variety was tested on at least four organic farms, using standard production practices employed by experienced farm managers.

Varieties tested, by supplier and season length

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short (&lt;95 days)</td>
<td></td>
<td>40R73</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OG-4430</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium (95-105 days)</td>
<td></td>
<td>4G52 4G34</td>
<td>45R37 48B30</td>
<td>N524</td>
<td>OG-4830 OG-5250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full (&gt;105 days)</td>
<td>exFG06 ex11C8VP ex11C22VP</td>
<td>D918 4FG06</td>
<td>57H36 70R70</td>
<td>N630 N631</td>
<td>OG-535 OG-6060</td>
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The average yield for the trial was 142 bu/ac, exceeding the national average yield of 122 bu/ac. Yield varied significantly between locations, ranging from 64 bu/ac in western Indiana to 190 bu/ac in central Ohio.

Differences between varieties were less pronounced than differences between locations. Top performing varieties were:

- Short season: Blue River Organic Seeds 40R73
- Medium season: Great Harvest Organics 44B8
- Full Season: Doebler’s PA Hybrids N630 & N631; Great Harvest Organics 59R5

Prepared by Michael Bomford, Kentucky State University College of Agriculture, Food Science and Sustainable Systems. Thanks to all seed suppliers; Jake Schmitz, Kevin Kiehnau, and Lowell Rheinheimer (Organic Valley); Tony Silvernail, Jon Cambron and Joni Nelson (KSU); Lori Hoagland (Purdue Univ.); Peter Thomson (Ohio State Univ.); Doug Billman, Charles Eselgroth, Dan Fullencamp, Roger Garland, Lloyd Martin, and Dave Osterloh, (Farmer Cooperators). Study will be repeated in 2013. To participate contact Jake Schmitz (270-779-1526 or jake.schmitz@organicvalley.coop).

Average yield by variety (bu/ac)

Top performer yields are significantly higher than weak performers (t-test, P<0.05). Intermediate yields do not differ significantly from top or weak performers.