

Blunt Ear Syndrome (BES) is an occasional problem in corn that results in extremely short ears due to arrested development during the ear size determination period. More descriptive information about this odd phenomenon is available on the Web at <http://www.kingcorn.org/news/articles.03/BeerCanEars-0812.html>.

The causes of BES are unknown. Because its occurrence is fairly scattered year-to-year and field-to-field, relevant background information about affected fields has not been very thoroughly documented. We invite growers or their consultants who have identified fields with documented BES to complete and submit the following information form in order to aid our investigations into the cause(s) of this ear development oddity.

The form may be downloaded, printed, completed the traditional way (pen or pencil), and returned by US mail to RL (Bob) Nielsen, Agronomy Dept., 915 W. State, Purdue Univ., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2054. Alternatively, you can type the information directly onto the form while viewing the document with Adobe Acrobat Reader software, save the modified form to your computer, and then return the completed form as an email attachment to RL (Bob) Nielsen at rnielsen@purdue.edu. Adobe Acrobat Reader v5.x works best for viewing this form on your computer. Download the latest version if necessary at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

Additional copies of this form can be downloaded from the Web at the addressed below. <http://www.kingcorn.org/research/beercan/FieldInfoForm.pdf>.

Background Information About the Affected Field

Please complete as much of the following information as possible for each field in which Blunt Ear Syndrome is discovered.

Geographic information of affected field:

1. State:
2. County:
3. Your name, address, phone no., email (OPTIONAL):

Observed symptomology of problem:

4. Approximate percent of field affected:
5. Approximate percent of ears affected within affected area:
6. Average length (inches) of affected cobs:
7. Average number of kernels per row on affected ears:
8. Average number of kernel rows on affected ears:

Information about affected hybrids:

9. Affected hybrid(s)
 - a. Seed company:
(e.g., Bob's Pretty Good Seeds)
 - b. Hybrid number(s):
(e.g., BN2650)
 - c. Relative hybrid maturity rating:
(e.g., 110 days)
10. Check the box that appropriately identifies the type of corn:
 - a. Yellow dent, normal
 - b. Yellow dent, Bt-Corn borer
 - c. Yellow dent, Bt-Rootworm
 - d. Yellow dent, Roundup-Ready (RR)
 - e. Yellow dent, Bt/RR stack
 - f. Yellow dent, Liberty Link
 - g. White dent, normal
 - h. Popcorn, dent sterile
 - i. Popcorn, dent fertile
 - j. Other? Please list:

Information about affected field or area of field

11. Planting date:
12. Indicate previous crop:
 - a. Soybean
 - b. Corn
 - c. Wheat
 - d. Other, please list:
13. Indicate tillage system:
 - a. Conventional tillage, little surface residue:
 - b. Conservation tillage, moderate surface residue:
 - c. No-till, low to moderate surface residue:
 - d. No-till, heavy surface residue:

14. Indicate landscape position(s) of affected area:
 - a. High ground:
 - b. Low ground:
 - c. Sloping ground:
15. Indicate general location of affected area:
 - a. Throughout field:
 - b. Primarily near edges of field:
 - c. Other, please indicate:
16. Indicate natural soil drainage characteristics of affected area:
 - a. Poorly drained and tiled:
 - b. Poorly drained with no tile:
 - c. Well drained and tiled:
 - d. Well drained with no tile:

Soil Fertility & Fertilizer Applications Relative to Affected Area

17. Soil test pH:
18. Soil test phosphorus (indicate ppm or lbs/ac):
19. Soil test potassium (indicate ppm or lbs/ac):
20. Complete the following information as appropriate to describe your nitrogen fertilizer program:
 - a. Pre-plant nitrogen application
 - i. Fertilizer source (ammonia, 28% N, etc):
 - ii. Nitrogen rate (lbs of actual N):
 - iii. Date of application:
 - b. Starter nitrogen application
 - i. Fertilizer source (10-34-0, 28% N, etc):
 - ii. Nitrogen rate (lbs of actual N):
 - iii. Date of application:
 - c. Side-dress nitrogen application
 - i. Fertilizer source (10-34-0, 28% N, etc):
 - ii. Nitrogen rate (lbs of actual N):
 - iii. Date of application:

- d. Other nitrogen application
 - i. Fertilizer source (10-34-0, 28% N, etc):
 - ii. Nitrogen rate (lbs of actual N):
 - iii. Date of application:

21. Indicate any confirmed nutrient deficiency in the affected area(s):

- a. Nitrogen
- b. Phosphorus
- c. Potassium
- d. Other, please list:

Pesticide information:

22. List pre-plant herbicides applied this year:

- a. Product name:
- b. Product name:
- c. Product name:

23. List pre-emergent herbicides applied this year:

- a. Product name:
 - i. Date of application:
- b. Product name:
 - i. Date of application:
- c. Product name:
 - i. Date of application:

24. List post-emergent herbicides applied this year:

- a. Product name:
 - i. Date of application:
- b. Product name:
 - i. Date of application:
- c. Product name:
 - i. Date of application:

25. List insecticides used this year:
- a. Product name:
 - i. Date of application:
 - ii. Applied with planter:
or ground equipment applicator:
or aerial applicator”
 - b. Product name:
 - i. Date of application:
 - ii. Applied with planter:
or ground equipment applicator:
or aerial applicator:

Weather information:

26. List date(s) and a brief description of any unusual weather events that occurred during the first 30 to 45 days after planting the affected field:
- a. Excessive rainfall:

 - b. Excessive drought:

 - c. Minor frost events
(Warmer than 30 F):

 - d. Major frost events
(Colder than 30 F):

 - e. Cold snaps
(Colder than 50 F):

 - f. Wind damage:

 - g. Other, please list: