



SOYBEAN VARIETY NAME CONSISTENCY

This article is presented for consideration by private industry and institutional soybean breeders who develop, release, and promote new varieties, and by coordinators of university soybean variety trials who present results from those trials. The contents provide supporting evidence for an issue that I believe warrants attention.

The Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board has a website, www.mssoy.org, that has a wealth of current information about soybean production. One of the website items that we are continually upgrading is the [variety selection tool](#). Each year, we add additional functionality to this tool, and attempt to make it more user-friendly.

One of the requirements for this tool to work properly is for the name of each variety to be recorded or written exactly the same in all potential sources of data. For example, Asgrow varieties should be recorded as AG#### so that the four digit variety number follows the letters AG with no spaces; e.g., AG4135 as it appears on the Asgrow website. If this naming convention is not followed and Asgrow varieties are identified differently (e.g., A 4135, Asgrow 4135, A4135, AG 4135), the tool will not work properly. Thus, when a farmer searches the variety trials database for a soybean variety with a specific trait such as metribuzin tolerance, the variety name that shows up in the results from that search must be consistent when that variety name is used to search for other trait data that may be available from other sources.

Also, we will include pest reaction data for varieties from other private and public sources, and if those entities do not use the exact same name for the same variety, then the selection tool will not work unless the hundreds of entries in the different trials are manually changed to be consistent. This, of course, is impractical, and creates unnecessary work before the tool with the current year's information can be posted.

In the table below, examples of variety name discrepancies that occur in current state variety trial reports are shown. For this presentation, two randomly selected varieties from eight seed companies are listed with their correct names that were obtained from the companies' websites. The name of each of these varieties as it appears in the 2014 variety trial results from five Midsouth states is also shown. Thus, the table contains 80 variety–state combinations.

In the table, there are 15 shaded cells that indicate instances where the variety name in a particular state's variety trial results do not exactly match the name assigned to that variety by the originating company. Thus, this sample represents a nearly 20% discrepancy between company names and the names used in the trial results. This, then, reinforces the concern expressed above, and will affect the activities that depend on correct variety names being used to build data sets from disparate sources.

The following are specific examples of some common discrepancies that are shown in the table, and how they will affect searches of data sets.



Spaces are important.

- As stated above for Asgrow varieties, there is no space between AG and the number. In two states' trial results, a space was placed between AG and the number.
- Unlike the case for Asgrow varieties where there should not be a space between AG and the number, a space should be placed between the P and number in Progeny varieties (see next point). This discrepancy occurred in the Mississippi trial results.
- Pioneer varieties are not shown in the table because they were not in the indicated states' variety trials. However, Pioneer variety names start with a "P", as do the names of Progeny varieties. The difference is there is no space between the "P" and the variety number in Pioneer varieties, but there is a space between the "P" and the variety number in Progeny varieties. This will be very important if by chance varieties from these two companies have the same number that follows the "P".

Using company-designated prefixes for all varieties is important.

- Progeny has a variety designated P 4440 RY, and Armor has a variety designated AX4440. Without the prefix, these appear to be the same varieties when using just the number (not shown in table). Other cases of varieties having the same number likely exist, so a company's designated prefix should always be included in the variety name.
- It is unclear whether or not the ® following the REV in Terral varieties is important since it should not affect the search for Terral varieties as long as the REV prefix is included. In six of the cited 10 cases showing Terral varieties, either the REV® or REV does

not appear before the variety numbers.

In my opinion, two points are supported by the above presentation.

- When private and public soybean breeders release a newly-developed soybean variety, they should establish a permanent name for that variety, and request that the new variety be referred to by that name in all subsequent presentations by their company colleagues, and whenever promotional and advertising materials are produced and disseminated by the originating company.
- Coordinators of state soybean variety trials should ensure that the exact company-designated names for all varieties in those trials are used in all presentations of trial results.

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INFORMATION

CORRECT NAME OF INDICATED SOYBEAN VARIETIES, AND NAMES USED IN INDICATED STATES' VARIETY TRIAL RESULTS.						
		Variety name used in indicated states' 2014 variety trial results				
Company	Variety*	Ark.	La.	Miss.	Mo.	Tenn.
Asgrow	AG4135	AG4135	AG 4135	AG 4135	NA	AG4135
	AG4534	AG4534	AG 4534	AG 4534	NA	AG4534
Mycogen	5N451R2	5N451R2	5N451R2	5N451R2	5N451R2	5N451R2
	5N479R2	SN479	5N479R2	5N479R2	5N749R2	5N749R2
Progeny	P 4440 RY	P 4440 RY	P 4440 RY	P4440RY	4440RY	4440 RY
	P 4747 RY	P 4747 RY	P 4747 RY	P 4747 RY	4747RY	4747 RY
Armor	44-R08	44-R08	44-R08	44-R08	44-R08	44-R08
	46-R65	46-R65	46-R65	45-R65	46-R65	46-R65
Syngenta (NK)	S45-V8	S45-V8	S45-V8	S45-V8	S45-V8	S45-V8
	S46-L2	S46-L2	S46-L2	S46-L2	S46-L2	S46-L2
Terral (REV)	REV® 46R64	REV® 46R64	REV 46R64	REV 46R64	REV® 46R64	46R64
	REV® 48R44	REV® 48R44	REV 48R44	REV 48R44	REV® 48R44	45R44
Dyna-Gro	S46RY85	S46RY85	S46RY85	S46RY85	S46RY85	S46RY85
	S47RY13	S47RY13	S47RY13	S47RY13	S47RY13	S47RY13
Morsoy	46X04	46X04	46X04	46X04	46X04	46X04
	47X12	47X12	47X12	47X12	47X12	47X12
*Variety name as it appears on company website or in company literature. This is the name a variety should have in all company promotions and advertising, and in all variety trial results.						