Dark Tobacco Varieties

Andy Bailey
Dark Varieties

- Newer varieties:
  - Broader spectrum of disease resistance
  - More upright growth habit
  - Increased yield potential
  - Lower quality and curing characteristics?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Maturity</th>
<th>Black Shank</th>
<th>Black Root Rot</th>
<th>Fusarium</th>
<th>TMV</th>
<th>Wildfire</th>
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Narrowleaf Madole LC

- Still the most popular all-around dark variety grown.
- Fire-cured or air-cured
- Excellent yield potential
  - 3200+ lbs/A
- Excellent curing characteristics and leaf quality
- Very prostrate, smooth leaf surface
- Prone to leaf breakage at harvest
- Can remain in the field longer than any other variety
- Generally does not perform as well as an early crop (set before May 15)
- No disease resistance
Tom Rossom (TR) Madole

- Typically a fire-cured variety
- Excellent yield potential
  - 3200 lbs/A
- Excellent curing characteristics and leaf quality
- Very prostrate, similar to NL Madole
- Prone to leaf breakage at harvest
- Rounded top leaves, open texture
- Very smooth leaf surface
  - Well suited for cigar wrapper
- No disease resistance
Little Crittenden

- Typically an air-cured variety
  - Performs well as fire-cured
- Good yield potential
  - (3000 lbs/A)
- Exceptional cured leaf quality
- Semi-erect growth habit
- Fairly coarse-textured leaves
- Med-Late maturity
DF 911

• Typically a fire-cured variety
• Excellent yield potential
  – 3300+ lbs/A
• Prostrate growth habit
• Very large stalk size
• High resistance to:
  – Black root rot
  – Wildfire
  – Tobacco Mosaic Virus
KY 160

- Air-cured variety
- Medium maturity
- Excellent cured leaf quality
- Low yield potential
  - 2600 lbs/A
- Semi-erect growth habit
- Thin, long narrow leaves
- Very smooth texture
- High resistance to TMV
KY 171

- Air-cured or fire-cured variety
- Medium maturity
- Very good yield potential
- Good cured leaf quality
- Semi-erect growth habit
- Coarse leaf texture
- High resistance to:
  - Black root rot
  - Tobacco mosaic virus
  - Medium Fusarium wilt resistance
- Performs well as early crop
  - Set prior to May 15
• Air-cured or fire-cured variety
• Early-medium maturity
• Fair yield potential – 2900 to 3000 lbs/A
• Good cured leaf quality
• Semi-erect growth habit
• Leaf texture fairly smooth
• Med-Low resistance to R0 and R1 black shank
• Low black root rot resistance
VA 359

- Air-cured or fire-cured variety
- Medium maturity
- Good yield potential – 3100 lbs/A
- Excellent cured leaf quality – Light brown
- Erect growth habit
- Variable phenotype
- Low resistance to black shank and black root rot
TN D950

- Fire-cured variety
- First suitable dark tobacco variety released with fairly good black shank resistance (1995)
- Early maturity
- Prostrate growth habit
- Excellent yield potential – 3200 lbs/A
- Fair cured leaf quality
- Dark green, more chlorophyll
- Smooth leaf texture
- Medium black shank resistance
- High resistance to black root rot, TMV, wildfire
KT D4LC

• Very upright growth habit
• Very high yield potential
  – (4200+ lbs/A)
• Good black shank resistance
• No black root rot resistance
• Plant regulation on sticks critical
• Stick spacing in barn critical (at least 12”)
• Rough leaf texture
  – Differences in coloring, ordering
KT D6 LC

- First hybrid dark tobacco released from KY-TN breeding program
- KT D4 LC x TN D950
  - Leaf texture more like TN D950
  - Maturity later than either parent
- Available for growers in 2007
- Black shank and black root rot resistance
- Improved curing and leaf quality over KT D4 LC
- Yield potential slightly less than KT D4 LC
DT 538 LC

• New Newton’s variety for 2006
• Black shank resistance similar to KT D4
• Maturity similar to KT D4
• Yield potential slightly less than KT D4
• Excellent leaf quality
  – Light colored lugs
• 2007 pelleted seed problem
  – Plants available
PD 312H  
(PD 7312 LC)

• New dark hybrid from Rickard
• KY 171 x NL Madole
• High resistance to black root rot and mosaic virus
• No black shank resistance
• Maturity more similar to KY 171
• Excellent yield potential  
  – (4000 lbs/A+)
• Excellent quality
# Top 10 Yielding Varieties at Princeton in 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield Lbs/A</th>
<th>Yield Rank</th>
<th>Grade Index</th>
<th>Grade Rank</th>
<th>Revenue $/A</th>
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## Top 10 Yielding Varieties at Murray in 2006

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<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield Lbs/A</th>
<th>Yield Rank</th>
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2006 Dark Air-Cured Variety Trial
UKREC, Princeton, KY

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Maturity and Harvest Timing
Dark Tobacco

Weeks After Topping

4

5

6

7

8

9

Burley

TN D950

VA 309

VA 359

KT D6LC

KY 171

PD 7312LC

TR Madole

KT D4LC

DT 538LC

DF 911

Little Crittenden

Narrowleaf Madole