

MEMO

To: Agents in Tobacco Growing Counties

From: Paul Denton
Professor and Extension Burley Tobacco Specialist
University of Tennessee
(865) 974-8839 phone
(865) 974 7997 fax

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Re: UT recommended Burley Tobacco varieties for 2005

KT 204 LC has been added to the list of black shank resistant varieties. Most of you know that this is the newest release from Bob Miller's breeding program, and it is an excellent one. It has the highest resistance available to race 1 black shank, with a 7 rating, and is also a 7 for race 0. It has a yield potential equal to the best of the black shank susceptible varieties, the first resistant variety to reach this goal. KT 204 LC cures well and has very good quality, much better than KT 200. It is a late variety, but not quite as late as KT 200. IT has the same black root rot and virus resistance as TN 90 LC or KT 200 LC. About the only weakness we have seen is that KT 204 LC apparently does not have the degree of blue mold tolerance seen with TN 90, although it is not especially susceptible compared to many other Burley varieties.

With the widespread availability of KY 204 LC seed, we have dropped KT 200 from the recommended list. This is primarily because KT 204 LC offers better yield potential and black shank resistance, without the quality problems of KY 200. Hybrid 501 was also dropped, since KT 204 has better yield potential and black shank resistance.

The "LC" versions of TN 90, TN 86 and TN 97 have been added to the list, in place of the old versions. This is in recognition of the fact that three of the four major buyers are requiring LC or screened seed this season, and the LC designation assures a producer that the seed is acceptable. There are in fact supplies of screened TN 90, 86 and 97 available which are not LC, and these are perfectly fine. However, there are unscreened supplies of these varieties also; producers should check with their seed supplier to be sure.

Looking at the black shank susceptible list, Hybrid 403 has been dropped from the list because there are no screened seed available, Hybrid 403 remains an outstanding variety in black shank free situations in terms of yield and quality. However, growers should be sure that their buyer does not require screened seed before using it. Since at least three major buyers are requiring screened seed this season, we decided to drop varieties from our recommended list if no screened seed was available.

NC 2000 has been added to the recommended list, specifically for situations in which black shank and black root rot are not problems and blue mold control by spraying is not feasible. This variety has very good resistance to blue mold, but it is completely susceptible to black shank, has low resistance to black root rot, low resistance to virus diseases and a relatively low yield potential. It is also a very late maturing variety.



Tobacco varieties 05.ppt