

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: [2008 Recommended Burley Varieties](#)

Attached is the revised list of UT recommended burley tobacco varieties for 2008. The list has been extensively revised from last year. Several old varieties have been dropped, including TN97LC, TN86LC, NC 5, NCBH 129, and Hybrid 403. Newly added varieties include NC 7, Hybrid 501LC, and Hybrid 501LC and KT206LC. In addition, varieties are now divided into three groups based on black shank resistance (moderately high resistance, moderate resistance, susceptible).

The philosophy used in selecting UT recommended varieties is that any variety placed on the list should represent the best one or two choices for a particular situation. For example, Hybrid 501LC has only medium black shank resistance and yield potential. For many farmers with black shank other alternatives will be better. But for growers who need to spread the maturity of their crop to spread harvest labor, it is earlier maturing than any other variety available with medium or better black shank resistance. Varieties on the list are evaluated annually based on Tennessee and Kentucky variety trials. They are dropped from the list, and new ones added, when a new variety offers a better fit for the particular situation. No variety is added to the list unless we have three years experience with it in our variety trials.

It should be noted that there are many very good varieties which are not on this list. This does not mean that we don't believe growers can be successful with them. TN 97LC and TN 86LC are two examples of very good varieties which continue to be popular with growers. But we feel there are choices on our list that are superior to them in the situations where they have their best fit.

In choosing varieties from this list, growers should first of all consider their disease situation, then yield and maturity, and then other more subtle characteristics like handling ability and cured leaf color.

