



# **Seed Moisture and Dry Matter Response During Sunflower Seed Development**

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The objective was to determine when physiological maturity occurs during sunflower seed development.



**North Dakota State University, Fargo  
Dept. of Plant Sciences**



**USDA-ARS North Central Soil  
Conservation Research Lab, Morris, MN**



**Prosper Research Site**



**Swan Lake Research Site**



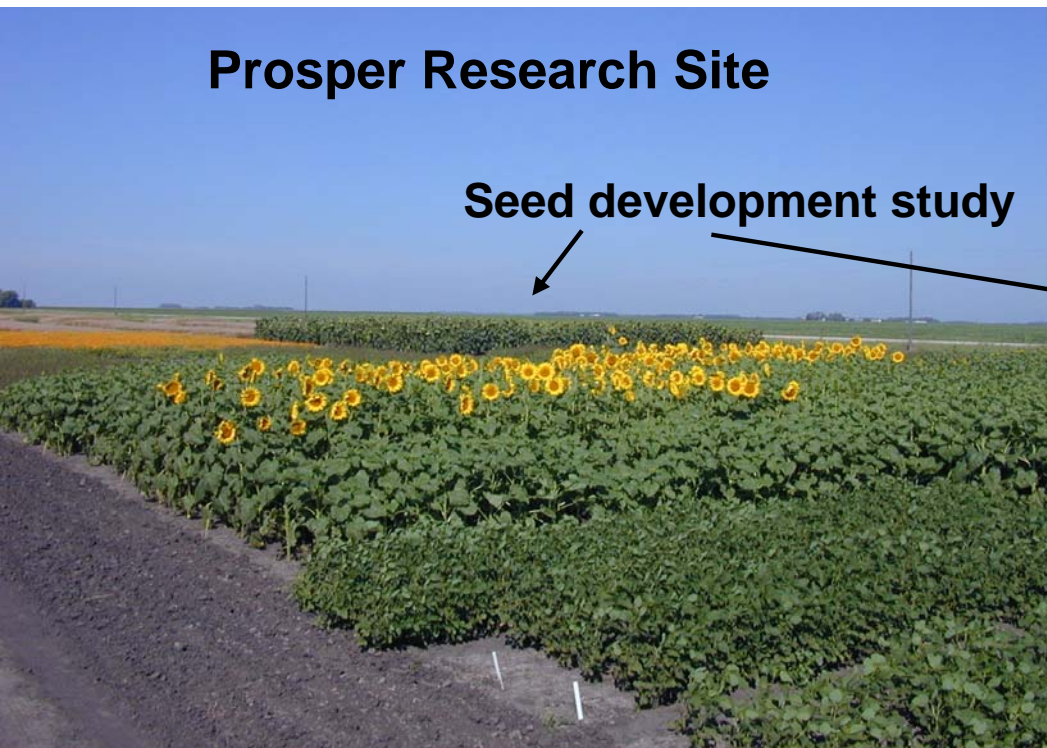
**North Dakota State University, Fargo  
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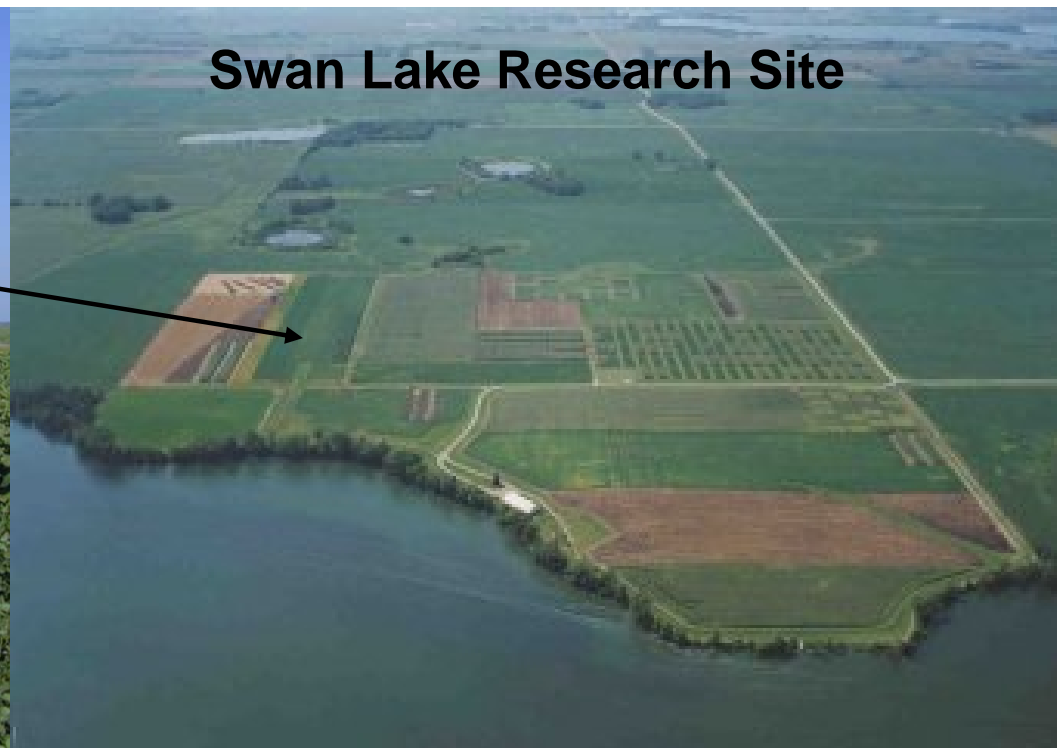
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**Prosper Research Site**



**Swan Lake Research Site**



# Experimental Design

**RCB with 4 replicates**

**Main plot hybrid (3)**

- **Mycogen 8N272**
  - NuSun
- **Croplan 378**
  - High oleic
- **Red River Commodities 2215**
  - nonoilseed

**Subplot (9)**

- **Harvest date**

**Subsubplot (3)**

- **Head position**



2215

8N272

Swan Lake

**8N272**



**2215**



**378**



**Photos on 8 Aug 2008**

Photos on 5 Sept. 2008 Prosper



8N272                      2215                      378

Hybrid

Harvest date – at 3 to 5 d

Head position

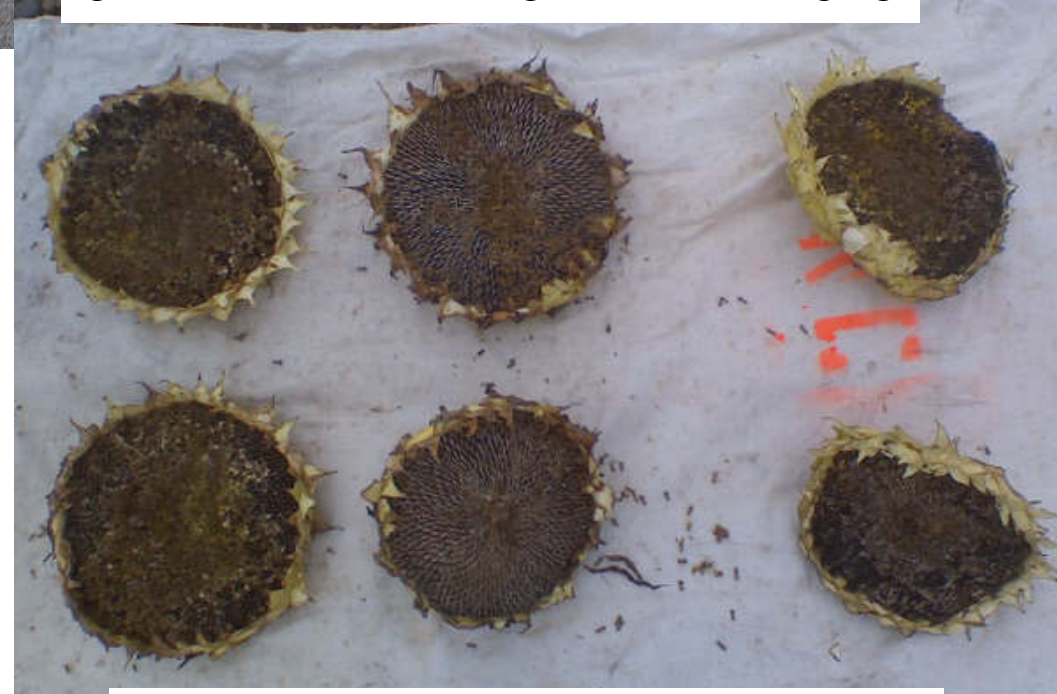


Photo on 26 Sept. 2008 Prosper

Photos on 5 Sept. 2008 Prosper



8N272      2215      378

Head position  
for seed harvest

- Outer 1/3
- Middle 1/3
- Center 1/3

Counted out 125 seeds/position/head



Photo on 26 Sept. 2008 Prosper



Photos on 5 Sept. 2008 Prosper



8N272                      2215                      378

Head position  
for seed harvest

Traits evaluated

- Outer 1/3
- Middle 1/3
- Center 1/3

- Seed moisture ✓
- Seed weight ✓
- Seed oil content
- See oil composition

Counted out 125 seeds/position/head



Photo on 26 Sept. 2008 Prosper

**Mean seed dry weight (mg/seed) for oilseed hybrid 272 at eight harvest dates at Morris, MN, in 2009.**

	Days from R5.1							
<b>Hyb</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>272</b>	21	29	39	42	41	46	48	47

**LSD (0.05) Hybrid x Date = 4 for seed weight**

**Mean seed dry weight (mg/seed) and seed moisture (%) for oilseed hybrid 272 at eight harvest dates at Morris, MN, in 2009.**

	Days from R5.1							
<b>Hyb</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>272</b>	21	29	39	42	41	46	48	47
H <sub>2</sub> O	76	66	51	47	40	34	22	22

LSD (0.05) Hybrid x Date = 4 for seed weight

**Mean seed dry weight (mg/seed) and seed moisture (%) for oilseed hybrids 272 and 378 at eight harvest dates at Morris, MN, in 2009.**

	Days from R5.1							
<b>Hyb</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>272</b>	21	29	39	42	41	46	48	47
H <sub>2</sub> O	76	66	51	47	40	34	22	22
<b>378</b>	17	31	35	38	47	48	51	49

LSD (0.05) Hybrid x Date = 4 for seed weight

**Mean seed dry weight (mg/seed) and seed moisture (%) for oilseed hybrids 272 and 378 at eight harvest dates at Morris, MN, in 2009.**

	Days from R5.1							
<b>Hyb</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>272</b>	21	29	39	42	41	46	48	47
H <sub>2</sub> O	76	66	51	47	40	34	22	22
<b>378</b>	17	31	35	38	47	48	51	49
H <sub>2</sub> O	80	67	55	50	40	34	34	28

LSD (0.05) Hybrid x Date = 4 for seed weight

**Mean seed dry weight (mg/seed) for nonoilseed hybrid 2215 at eight harvest dates at Morris, MN, in 2009.**

	Days from R5.1							
<b>Loc</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>60</b>
Out	87	133	147	153	149	151	158	154
Mid	58	108	119	126	132	136	137	141
In	21	72	81	94	96	101	105	112

LSD (0.05) Loc x Date = 9 for seed weight

**Mean seed dry weight (mg/seed) for nonoilseed hybrid 2215 at eight harvest dates at Morris, MN, in 2009.**

	Days from R5.1							
<b>Loc</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>60</b>
Out	87	133	147	153	149	151	158	154
Mid	58	108	119	126	132	136	137	141
In	21	72	81	94	96	101	105	112

LSD (0.05) Loc x Date = 9 for seed weight

**Mean seed moisture (%) for nonoilseed hybrid 2215 at eight harvest dates at Morris, MN, in 2009.**

	Days from R5.1							
<b>Loc</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>60</b>
Out	74	62	54	43	38	26	26	21
Mid	79	65	57	46	44	33	33	27
In	88	72	65	49	55	40	39	35

LSD (0.05) Loc x Date = 9 for seed weight



# Summary

- Oilseed
  - Max. seed wt. (MSW) 43 to 48 d from R5.1
  - Seed moisture 34 to 40% at MSW
- Nonoilseed
  - Days to MSW increased from Outer to Inner
  - MSW 39 to 54 d from R5.1
  - Seed moisture 39 to 44% at MSW

A large sunflower with bright yellow petals and a detailed brown and green center is the central focus. The background shows a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds and other sunflowers in the distance.

# **Acknowledgements**

**National Sunflower Association**

**Croplan Genetics**

**Mycogen Seeds**

**Red River Commodities**

***Questions?***