



THE SEED CONSULTANT

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE FIELD

POOR TIP FILL IN CORN

Several factors could be the cause

NEW GENERAL MANAGER NAMED

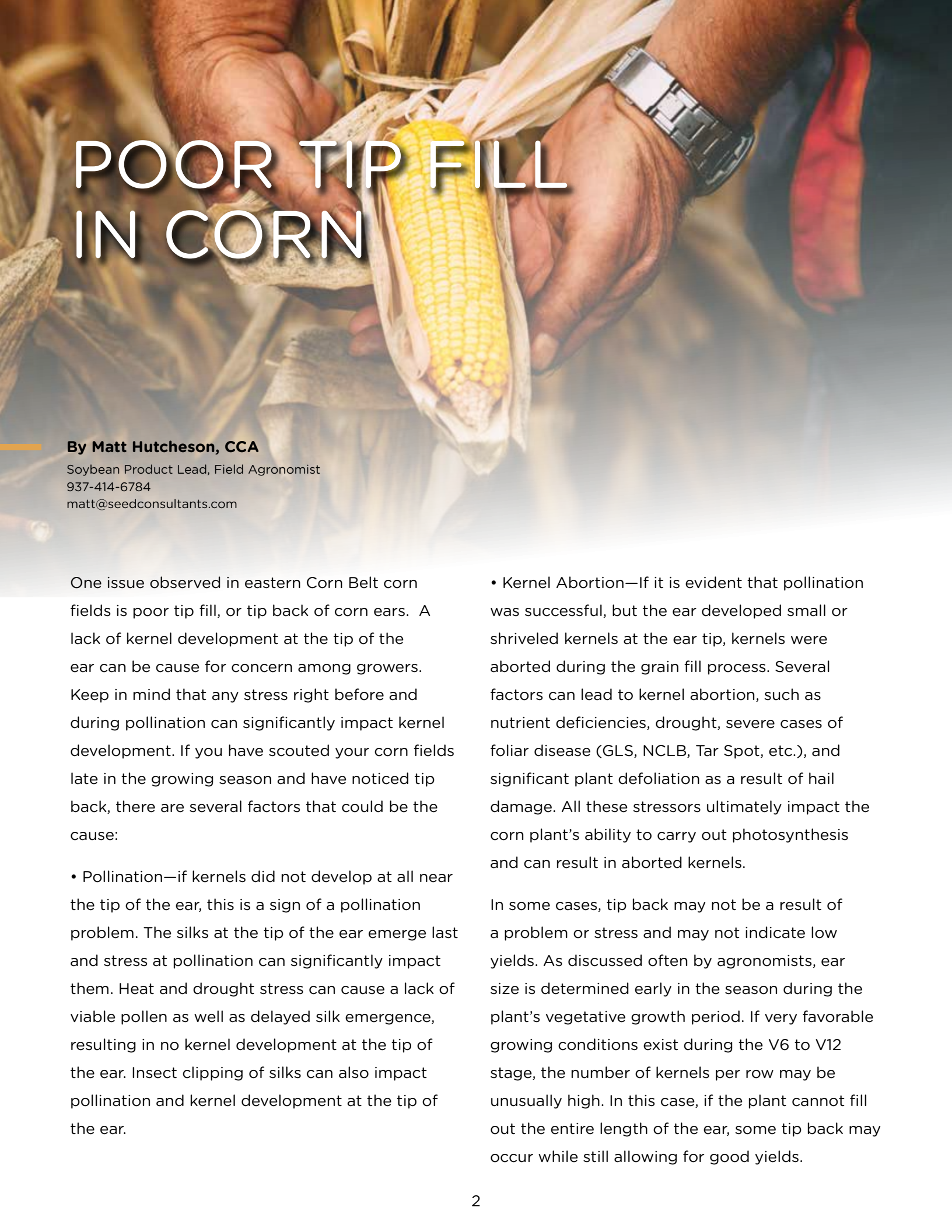
Seed Consultants welcomes Anthony Grieco

GENETIC GAIN

What it means to the grower

NOW IS THE TIME TO TEST YOUR SOIL pH

Review soil test data to plan for the 2026 growing season



POOR TIP FILL IN CORN

By Matt Hutcheson, CCA

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One issue observed in eastern Corn Belt corn fields is poor tip fill, or tip back of corn ears. A lack of kernel development at the tip of the ear can be cause for concern among growers. Keep in mind that any stress right before and during pollination can significantly impact kernel development. If you have scouted your corn fields late in the growing season and have noticed tip back, there are several factors that could be the cause:

- **Pollination**—if kernels did not develop at all near the tip of the ear, this is a sign of a pollination problem. The silks at the tip of the ear emerge last and stress at pollination can significantly impact them. Heat and drought stress can cause a lack of viable pollen as well as delayed silk emergence, resulting in no kernel development at the tip of the ear. Insect clipping of silks can also impact pollination and kernel development at the tip of the ear.

- **Kernel Abortion**—If it is evident that pollination was successful, but the ear developed small or shriveled kernels at the ear tip, kernels were aborted during the grain fill process. Several factors can lead to kernel abortion, such as nutrient deficiencies, drought, severe cases of foliar disease (GLS, NCLB, Tar Spot, etc.), and significant plant defoliation as a result of hail damage. All these stressors ultimately impact the corn plant's ability to carry out photosynthesis and can result in aborted kernels.

In some cases, tip back may not be a result of a problem or stress and may not indicate low yields. As discussed often by agronomists, ear size is determined early in the season during the plant's vegetative growth period. If very favorable growing conditions exist during the V6 to V12 stage, the number of kernels per row may be unusually high. In this case, if the plant cannot fill out the entire length of the ear, some tip back may occur while still allowing for good yields.

BUY INTO BETTER SOYBEANS.

Seed Consultants brand Enlist E3[®] soybeans are designed to excel in the eastern Corn Belt, and they're backed by a team who knows your ground. Buy into a seed experience that puts reliability and results first.

Visit seedconsultants.com to learn more.



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The transgenic soybean event in Enlist E3[®] soybeans is jointly developed and owned by Corteva Agriscience and M.S. Technologies L.L.C. Enlist One[®] and Enlist Duo[®] are not labeled for use in all 50 states. To find product labels, state registration status, and additional resources about the Enlist[®] weed control system and its availability, visit Enlist.com. Additional stewardship information on Enlist crops and to review seed product use guide details, visit traitstewardship.com.



GENETIC GAIN: WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE GROWER



By Jordan Bassler

Portfolio and Agronomy Leader
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Genetic gain is more than just a research term. It's something farmers can see in the field and measure at harvest—higher yields, stronger agronomics, and better protection that help manage risk every season.

WHY NEW GENETICS MATTER

For 2026, Seed Consultants® is launching one of our biggest corn classes ever – introducing nine Seed Consultants brand hybrids and several different trait packages.

The data speaks for itself. Against competitors in our geographic footprint, this class of nine new hybrids showed a 7.8 bushel per acre advantage, winning 67% of the time across nearly 2,000 comparisons.¹ Compared to our current Seed Consultants lineup, our nine new hybrids for 2026 are yielding 3.8 bushel advantage across more than 2,300 comparisons.² That's the kind

of steady progress genetic gain is designed to deliver.

Seed Consultants brand PowerCore® Enlist® Refuge Advanced® corn: Yield and Flexibility

Seed Consultants brand PowerCore® Enlist® corn hybrids are a great example of how new trait packages deliver value. With multiple modes of action against above-ground insects, including black cutworm, they've performed consistently well. Across 2,420 comparisons, Seed Consultants brand PowerCore Enlist corn delivered an average 4.5 bushel per acre advantage with a 61% win rate.³

Another key advantage is herbicide flexibility. PowerCore Enlist corn trait includes tolerance for Enlist herbicides (2,4-D choline), glyphosate, glufosinate, and FOP herbicides. That gives growers more weed control options, and with the

low-volatility design of Enlist herbicides, they're easier to steward responsibly.

Seed Consultants brand Vorceed® Enlist® corn: Protection for Corn-on-Corn Acre

Vorceed® Enlist® corn products build on that performance by adding below-ground insect protection. With six modes of action—three above-ground and three below-ground—plus RNAi technology to control future generations of adult rootworms, they're a strong choice for corn-on-corn acres.

In nearly 700 comparisons, Vorceed® Enlist® corn products averaged a 5.6 bushel per acre advantage over competitors.⁴

Beyond Yield: Agronomic Improvements

Yield is always important, but it's not the only factor. With each new class of hybrids, we've made steady progress in areas like drought tolerance, standability, and overall plant health. Over the past decade, the number of hybrids with top scores for drought tolerance and late-season standability has roughly doubled.

Tar spot is another example. Across more than 80,000 comparisons across the corn belt, Seed Consultants hybrids showed a 69% win rate and an 8.7 bushel per acre advantage in fields where tar spot was present.⁵

THE BOTTOM LINE

Our nine new Seed Consultants brand corn hybrids are a smart investment as a risk management tool. The consistent yield advantage helps buffer against unpredictable weather, disease pressure and market volatility. Many progressive growers want the newest genetics—because that's where the best return on investment is.

Bottom line: planting the latest genetics isn't just about chasing yield. It's about managing risk, protecting your acres, and positioning your operation for long-term success.

As you plan for 2026, talk with your Seed Consultants sales professional about planting our newest corn hybrids backed by industry-leading corn traits. Even putting part of your acres into this launch class will show the difference.

1 Data is based on an average of 1,996 comparisons made in the Seed Consultants footprint from 2022-2024. Comparisons are against on-farm trials and 3rd party data, unless otherwise stated, and within +/- 3 CRM of the competitive brand.

2 Data is based on an average of 2,390 comparisons made in the Seed Consultants footprint from 2022-2024. Comparisons are against on-farm trials and 3rd party data, unless otherwise stated, and within +/- 3 CRM of the competitive brand.

3 Data is based on an average of 2,420 comparisons made in the Seed Consultants footprint from 2022-2024. Comparisons are against on-farm trials and 3rd party data, unless otherwise stated, and within +/- 3 CRM of the competitive brand.

4 Data is based on an average of 687 comparisons made in the Seed Consultants footprint from 2022-2024. Comparisons are against on-farm trials and 3rd party data, unless otherwise stated, and within +/- 3 CRM of the competitive brand.

5 Data is based on an average of 80,088 comparisons made in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan within the Seed Consultants footprint from 2022-2024. Comparisons are against on-farm trials and 3rd party data, unless otherwise stated, and within +/- 3 CRM of the competitive brand.

Product responses are variable and subject to a number of environmental, disease and pest pressures. Individual results may vary. Multi-year and multi-location data are a better predictor of performance. DO NOT USE THIS OR ANY OTHER DATA FROM A LIMITED NUMBER OF TRIALS AS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN PRODUCT SELECTION. Refer to SeedConsultants.com or contact your Seed Consultants sales professional for the latest and complete listing of traits and scores for the products provided subject to the terms and conditions of purchase which are part of the labeling and purchase documents.

The foregoing is provided for informational use only. Please contact your Seed Consultants sales representative for information and suggestions specific to your operation. Product performance is variable and depends on many factors, such as moisture and heat stress, soil type, management practices, and environmental stress, as well as disease and pest pressures. Individual results may vary.

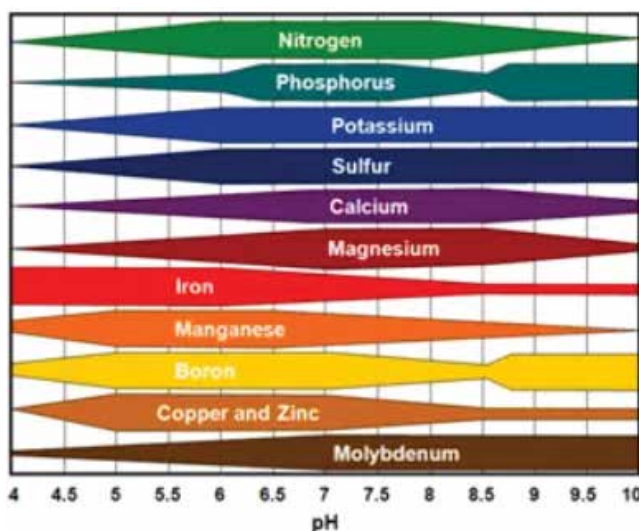
NOW IS THE TIME TO TEST YOUR SOIL pH

By J.D. Bethel, CCA

Director of Agronomic Services
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With harvest underway or winding down in all areas of our footprint, it is already time to start thinking about the 2026 growing season. This should ideally begin with a review of soil test data that was taken in the last 2-3 years. To maximize crop yields soil test phosphorus, potassium, and pH levels need to be within ideal ranges to optimize nutrient uptake and reduce crop stress throughout the growing season. Soil pH is of critical importance but is often overlooked compared to phosphorus and potassium levels. I would argue that soil pH is even more important than soil nutrient levels because soil pH levels that are out of our ideal range, 6.0-7.0, will actively limit the availability of critical macro and micronutrients to the plant.

The chart below details nutrient plant availability across a range of soil pH levels.



Low pH levels can severely reduce macronutrient uptake while high pH levels primarily reduce micronutrient uptake.

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE SOIL PH

Soil Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) is a calculated value that estimates the ability of soil to hold onto positively charged ions. The primary nutrients include potassium (K^+), calcium (Ca^{2+}) and magnesium (Mg^{2+}). Through crop production and soil weathering processes these nutrients are removed and replaced with other cations like hydrogen (H^+) which actively lower soil pH by replacing the calcium cations on the molecular exchange sites within the soil. The

main addition of hydrogen to our soils occurs as a byproduct of the nitrogen cycle. Ammonium nitrogen sources, which include commercial fertilizer and manure, go through nitrification which shears off the hydrogen ions as ammonium converts to nitrite.

Soil pH is essentially a measure of the amount of hydrogen cations that are in the soil solution. The more hydrogen cations are present, the lower the soil pH. The application of agricultural lime, calcium carbonate, will react with the hydrogen cations removing them from the exchange sites raising the soil pH.

LIMING MATERIALS

Once it is determined that you need to raise your soil pH the next step is to apply lime to fix the

problem. However, not all liming materials are created equal. The type of stone used to create agricultural lime will have different ratios of calcium and magnesium. I typically break these down into two categories, high-cal lime and high-mag lime. Please work with a local agronomist to determine which type is appropriate based on your soil test. I do not recommend applying high-mag limes to soils with elevated base saturation levels of magnesium.

In most states, the State Department of Agriculture will publish a “Lime Report” that details the quality and availability of lime from various quarries across the state. Please work with a local agronomist to determine which lime source is best suited to your fields.

EARLY CASH DISCOUNTS

Seed Consultants offers opportunities to maximize seed cost savings through an early cash discount schedule for the 2026 planting season.

CASH DISCOUNTS

October.....	13%
November	12%
December-January 10, 2026.....	10%
January 11-31, 2026	8%
February 2026.....	6%
March 2026.....	4%
April 2026	2%

If you have any questions, please call the office at 800-708-2676.



PRODUCT USE GUIDE

Part of growing healthy crops is making sure they are protected with the right products. Visit the product page on our website to view our product use guide for information about insect control and herbicide tolerance to support technologies in our seed.





FINANCING SEED CONSULTANTS, INC.

TWO GREAT FINANCING CHOICES FOR 2025-2026 0% THROUGH JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL 0% THROUGH RABO AGRIFINANCE

These financing programs are only available to John Deere Financial Preferred Customers and/or RABO AgriFinance approved customers. To apply for a John Deere Financial Preferred Account or RABO account or to increase your John Deere Financial or RABO line of credit, contact John Deere Financial (800-433-8964) or RABO (888-395-8505), so the necessary paperwork may be completed with John Deere Financial &/or RABO.

JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL & RABO GUIDELINES

- Must be a John Deere Financial Preferred Customer or approved by RABO AgriFinance.
- Approval and credit limits established by John Deere Financial &/or RABO...not by SCI.
- Terms and conditions apply. See respective credit applications for full terms and disclosures.
- To increase or establish your credit line call John Deere Financial (800-433-8964) or RABO (888-395-8505).
- Must be enrolled and approved to qualify for discounts.
- Discounts applied on approval date from John Deere Financial &/or RABO.
- Signed terms of disclosure on file.
- Minimum purchase of \$1,000.
- Due date of December 2026.

Finance Plan	DISCOUNT SCHEDULE	
	John Deere Financial	RABO
Purchase & Approval Date	Fixed 0%	Fixed 0%
October 2025	4.5%	4.5%
November 2025	3.5%	3.5%
December - January 10, 2026	2.0%	2.0%
January 2026	0.0%	0.0%
February 2026	0.0%	0.0%
March 2026	0.0%	0.0%
April 2026	0.0%	0.0%
May 2026	0.0%	0.0%
In Season	0.0%	0.0%

RAISE YOUR ABOVEGROUND STANDARDS

PowerCore® Enlist® corn hybrids from Seed Consultants contain elite genetics, above-ground pest control and herbicide-tolerant trait technologies made for the eastern Corn Belt. We help farmers better defend their fields from corn borer, black cutworm and fall armyworm while managing tough weeds with the flexible Enlist® weed control system. Most of all, we're committed to raising expectations — and yield potential — for the eastern Corn Belt.



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GRAND CAYMAN

2026 CUSTOMER TRIP

SIGN UP ONLINE NOW VIA THE LINK ON
WWW.SEEDCONSULTANTS.COM

JANUARY 25-31, 2026

GRAND CAYMAN TRIP PACKAGE

- 7 Days, 6 nights accommodation in ocean-view rooms at Westin Grand Cayman
- Private Welcome Party for SCI on Day One
- Private breakfast on Day Two
- Seed Consultants Business Meeting
- \$250.00 per person resort credit for meals at leisure
(Credit can be used at any food and beverage outlet. Room service is not covered by the credit.)
- One Hour Private Farewell Reception on Day Six
- Round-Trip Airport Transfers
- Complimentary Wi-Fi in the public areas and guest rooms
- Daily yoga and fitness classes
- Paddleboard Clinics
- Snorkeling Equipment at Resort
- All Taxes, Fees and Gratuities at the Resort

TRIP COST (Excluding Air) at Westin Grand Cayman

Double Occupancy: \$6,150.00 (2 Adults sharing a Room)

Maximum capacity in a guest room is four regardless of age

AIR COSTS

Air is not included with the above trip costs but must be booked through MTI Events in order to attend the trip.

If an attendee wishes to check current airfare rates before registering and submitting the non-refundable deposit, they may call MTI Events at 913-438-2600 x118. The hours are Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST. Airfare rates are subject to change until ticketed.

After registration has been submitted and non-refundable deposit received, MTI Events will email the attendee with flight options and costs. There are no restrictions on fares or departure city.

Attendee is responsible for any costs associated with flight changes.

Airline points may be used to book airfare. Tickets must be booked directly with the airline. MTI has no control over frequent flier seat availability.

PAYMENTS

\$500 (per person)
non-refundable deposit due after online registration and before air is booked.

Full trip payment is due by Friday, November 21, 2025, and is non-refundable.



WESTIN GRAND CAYMAN SEVEN MILE BEACH RESORT & SPA

- This five-star, beachfront resort stretches out on 800 feet of the world-famous Seven Mile Beach. Spend your days playing on the beach, where you can try your hand at water sports, or float in the sparkling waters of the pool, where you can enjoy a refreshing cocktail from the swim-up bar.
- Your deluxe ocean-view guest room is designed to bring the outdoors in. A private balcony in each guest room enables guests to bask in the warmth of the year-round sun. Each guest room has a marble bathroom and Westin's signature Heavenly Bed®.
- The Westin Grand Cayman features four restaurants on property offering a delicious array of cuisines from island-inspired local fare at Woto to fresh seafood and grilled specialties Beach House Restaurant. Enjoy a tropical island drink in one of the three bars at the resort.
- Escape to your dream Caribbean getaway at The Westin Grand Cayman Seven Mile Beach Resort & Spa. This award-winning resort is just minutes from beaches, nightlife, shopping, golf and more.

All checks should be for trip expenses only and made payable to:

MTI Events
ATTN: Alyssa Hunter

10400 W. 103rd Street, Suite 10
Overland Park, KS 66214

MEETING PLANNER CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE: 913-438-2600
HOURS: Monday - Friday 9 AM - 5 PM EST
EMAIL: alyssa@mtievents.com

SEED CONSULTANTS WELCOMES ANTHONY GRIECO AS GENERAL MANAGER

Anthony brings more than two decades of leadership and innovation across the seed industry, with impactful roles at organizations including Dow AgroSciences, Asgrow and DeKalb (Bayer Crop Science), Growmark FS, and most recently, Brevant Seeds at Corteva Agriscience.

At Dow AgroSciences, Anthony held key positions such as Senior Sales Representative and Global Supply Chain Planning Specialist, where he drove national account growth and led Six Sigma supply chain improvements. His time at Growmark FS as Research & Operations Manager saw him advance hybrid development and streamline seed production, including the successful rollout of innovations like color-coded seed tags. While at Bayer Crop Science, Anthony served as District Sales Manager, consistently surpassing sales goals for the Asgrow and

DeKalb brands and championing adoption of the Climate digital ag platform. Most recently, at Brevant Seeds, he led strategic planning and

team development across the Northeast, fostering a culture of accountability and growth while aligning investments with retail partners. Anthony's deep industry knowledge, strategic mindset, and passion for team development make him an outstanding choice to lead Seed Consultants into its next chapter of growth and innovation.



Anthony and Robyn Grieco

He's a devoted husband to his wife, Robyn, and proud father to two children—Hannah, 23, and Matteo, 15. Outside of work, Anthony enjoys spending quality time with his family and pursuing his favorite hobbies, which include bass fishing, hunting and baseball. He is excited to get to know everyone and contribute to the great work ahead.





Seed Consultants

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Don't miss a thing

The SCI free e-newsletter comes via e-mail every Monday. The newsletter is packed full of current agronomic topics. Subscribe by sending your e-mail address to matt@seedconsultants.com or by signing up on our website at www.seedconsultants.com.

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Q (Qrome®) Contains a single-bag integrated refuge solution for above- and below-ground insects. The major component contains the Agrisure® RW trait, the Bt trait, and the Herculex® XTRA genes. In EPA-designated cotton growing counties, a 20% separate corn borer refuge must be planted with Qrome products.

LibertyLink® and the Water Droplet Design are registered trademarks of BASF.

Roundup Ready® is a registered trademark used under license from Bayer Group.

RR2 Contains the Roundup Ready® Corn 2 trait that provides crop safety for over-the-top applications of labeled glyphosate herbicides when applied according to label directions. ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS. Roundup Ready® crops contain genes that confer tolerance to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup® brand agricultural herbicides. Roundup® brand agricultural herbicides will kill crops that are not tolerant to glyphosate.

AM - Optimum® AcreMax® Insect Protection system with YGCB, HX1, LL, RR2. Contains a single-bag integrated refuge solution for above-ground insects.

AMXT (Optimum® AcreMax® XTreme) Contains a single-bag integrated refuge solution for above- and below-ground insects. The major component contains the Agrisure® RW trait, a Bt trait, and the Herculex® XTRA genes. In EPA-designated cotton growing counties, a 20% separate corn borer refuge must be planted with Optimum AcreMax and Optimum AcreMax XTreme products.

HX1 Contains the Herculex® I Insect Protection gene which provides protection against European corn borer, southwestern corn borer, black cutworm, fall armyworm, lesser corn stalk borer, southern corn stalk borer, and sugarcane borer; and suppresses corn earworm.

AQ Optimum® AQUAmax® product. Product performance in water-limited environments is variable and depends on many factors, such as the severity and timing of moisture deficiency, heat stress, soil type, management practices and environmental stress, as well as disease and pest pressures. All products may exhibit reduced yield under water and heat stress. Individual results may vary.

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PCE - POWERCORE® ENLIST® REFUGE ADVANCED® corn products with AVBL, HX1, VTP, ENL, LL, RR2. Contains a single-bag integrated refuge solution for above-ground insects. In EPA-designated cotton-growing counties, a 20% separate corn borer refuge must be planted with PowerCore Ultra Enlist Refuge Advanced products.

V - VORCEED® ENLIST® products with V, LL, RR, ENL. Contains a single-bag integrated refuge solution with multiple modes of action for above- and below-ground insects. The major component contains the Herculex® XTRA genes, the RW3 trait and the VTP trait. In EPA-designated cotton growing counties, a 20% separate corn borer refuge must be planted for Vorceed Enlist products.

All products are trademarks of their respective manufacturers.

Following burndown, Enlist Duo® and Enlist One® herbicides with Colex-D® technology are the only herbicides containing 2,4-D that are authorized for preemergence and postemergence use with Enlist® crops. Consult Enlist® herbicide labels for weed species controlled. Enlist Duo and Enlist One herbicides are not registered for use or sale in all states and counties; are not registered in AK, CA, CT, HI, ID, MA, ME, MT, NH, NV, OR, RI, UT, VT, WA and WY; and have additional subcounty restrictions in AL, GA, TN and TX, while existing county restrictions still remain in FL. All users must check "Bulletins Live! Two" no earlier than six months before using Enlist One or Enlist Duo. To obtain "Bulletins," consult epa.gov/espp/, call 1-844-447-3813, or email ESPP@epa.gov. You must use the

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Always follow grain marketing, stewardship practices and pesticide label directions.

All products are trademarks of their respective manufacturers.

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