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U.S. Department
of Transportation



Project Title: Selection of Hybrids and Optimization of Planting to Facilitate Just-in-Time Harvest for Sweet and Energy Sorghum

DR. WILLIAM ROONEY

Project Goal

- The goal of this study was to identify the correct varieties and hybrids of energy and sweet sorghums to optimize production systems that span the complete harvest season.

The objectives of this study were:

- To establish yield potential for specific harvest times.
- To identify the correct hybrid(s) to optimize productivity throughout the harvest season for both biomass and sweet sorghums.

Project Outcomes

- Sweet sorghum hybrids can be continually harvested from late July to early November. Sugar yields are lowest early and peak between late August and early October.
- Sweet sorghum is complementary to sugarcane, and these two crops can be harvested in sequence to extend a mill season.
- Biomass sorghums were evaluated for yields and management system. The productivity of all types was strongly influenced by the environment, but single cut hybrids produced the highest biomass yields.
- Optimum yields were attained between 135 to 160 days but yields of 90% range from 100 to 200 days indicating that a significant harvest window does exist for biomass sorghum.



PI: Dr. William Rooney

Texas Ag Experiment Station
Soil and Crop Science

Co-PI: Dr. Jürg Blumenthal

Texas Coop. Extension
Soil and Crop Sciences

Co-PI: Dr. Howard Viator

Louisiana State University
Iberia Research Station

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Photo courtesy of Oklahoma State University

