

Gerdes, J.T., Behr, C.F., Coors, H.G., Tracy, W.F.: **Compilation of North American Maize Breeding Germplasm.** - Crop Science Society of America, Madison 1993.

Maize is one of the most important crop plants and, at the same time, a traditional model organism for many fields of genetic research. The first inbred lines of maize, already obtained in the U.S.A. at the beginning of this century, gave rise to highly productive heterotic hybrids of world importance. Commercial use of hybrids with heterotic effect led to marked increase of their production as early as the thirties. Selection of inbred lines with high combining ability is an important step in maize breeding. This is why the presented publication appears very useful to all groups engaged in this field. Its impact is not limited to the U.S.A. and Canada due to the fact that perspective lines with origin in this area are used all over the world.

The most extensive part of this publication (152 pages) is occupied by the survey on inbred lines, hybrids and commercial cultivars of field corn. It is followed by 41 pages dealing with sweet corn and there is also necessary information about inbred lines of pop-corn on several pages. Each line is characterized by its full name, area of origin and use in production of heterotic hybrids, synthetics, composites, open-pollinated varieties and other breeding material. The information is supported by relevant references and enables reader to get comprehensive picture of the importance of inbred lines in further advancing hybrid maize production.

The publication brings sometimes hardly accessible information about genetic origin of inbred lines and their utilization in breeding, and can therefore serve as a good and useful aid to all breeders and scientific workers.

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