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RENK • SEED

Renk Corn Lineup: What We Saw in 2026

A look back at our 2026 corn research and what it means for your 2027 acres.

After covering Silage Choice and soybeans the last two weeks, this week we turn to grain corn. We've pulled together all the Renk Research data harvested this fall. It was our biggest research year yet, and it gives growers and dealers a lot to work with as seed orders come together. Here is a quick update on what we saw and where new products fit.



What We Saw in 2026

- **A bigger research footprint.** We tested products in our lineup and experimental products from 78 to 116 RM at 53 locations across eight states, with 6,387 reps harvested. For the first time, we built population into the plan. At 22 locations, we planted the same entries above and below the standard seeding rate, so every product now has a population response alongside yield, moisture, and standability.
- **A tough finish.** Summer heat stress gave way to heavy September rain, and crown rot and late stalk stress showed up at many locations. Stalk lodging averaged 1.4% and root lodging 0.9% across all plots, with some sites running much higher. That made 2026 a good year to see which products hold up full season.



- **New products delivered.** 15 of the 23 launch products with 2026 data finished above their set average, and seven ranked in the top five of their set. RK5699TRE led the way, finishing first in the 96–101 RM set.
- **Population response depends on maturity.** Products from 96 to 105 RM paid for higher rates, about 26 bu/a on average from the low to the high third. Earlier products peaked near 28,500–32,500, and the 106–110 RM group was the flattest population response.
- **The performance bar.** Most comparisons were against established Renk products, plus DEKALB and Pioneer entries in the same sets, so each new product was measured against genetics growers already know.

Lineup Highlights

Early (82–90 RM). RK258PCE and RK2577PCE ranked third and fourth in the 78–85 RM set, each about 11 bu/a above average, and both were strong across the last two years. New RK2622PCE was one of the driest products in its set, a good fit where an early harvest and dry grain carry the most value. New RK2645RR and conventional RK2645 bring standability, an 8 for Goss's wilt and good grain quality, and RK2645RR beat both outside checks by about 14 bu/a. At 90 RM, new RK3678VT4PRO and RK3678TRE finished second and third in their set in their first year of Renk trials.

Mid-season (91–101 RM). This group had the deepest new-product class we have tested. RK5699TRE finished about 19 bu/a above the set average, with Wisconsin nearly 26 bu/a ahead, and it was just as strong in 2025. RK6610PCE ranked second and has a two-year edge over the DEKALB check across 104 reps. RK5652PCE, RK5670VT4PRO and RK4656PCE all ranked in the top five of their sets, and RK4656PCE was above average in every state but one. RK4696SSPRO adds an 8 corn-on-corn rating and a strong disease package, and RK5600RR, RK6600RR and RK4545GT/LL give growers more herbicide-trait choices in this maturity.

Full-season (102–110 RM). RK630TRE and RK6555VT4PRO remain the core of this range. New RK6690PCE ranked sixth in the 102–105 RM set and was about 13 bu/a above average in 2025, with very good late health and good ear set under stress. New RK7688SSPRO ranked eighth in the 106–110 RM set and stood out in Nebraska, Illinois and Iowa for the most productive acres. New RK6640TRE and RK6671SSPRO each finished 4 to 5 bu/a above their set average, and RK7600RR and RK7626SSPRO round out the new options.

Long-season (111–116 RM). RK889PCE ranked third in the 111–116 RM set, about 10 bu/a above average, with Iowa more than 24 bu/a ahead. RK8501PCE and RK8585TRE gave steady results, with Nebraska their strongest area. New for 2027, RK9601SSPRO and RK9601TRE showed good promise as full-season options at 116 RM. Both ranked near the top of their set in 2025, and over two years RK9601TRE out-yielded RK958VT2P in 36 of 41 reps.

Two Years Tell the Story

A single season can mislead, so we lean on products that held up in both 2025 and 2026. Several of the 2027 launch products and established hybrids did just that:

- **RK5699TRE:** about 18 bu/a above its set average in 2025 and 19 bu/a in 2026, and about 14 bu/a ahead of the DEKALB check over two years across 90 reps.
- **RK2577PCE** and **RK4656PCE:** both repeated at least 10 bu/a above their set average, and RK2577PCE out-yielded both outside checks by 21 to 23 bu/a over two years.
- **RK6610PCE** and **RK6690PCE:** 10 and 13 bu/a above their sets in 2025, and performed strongly in our testing over the last two years, with 67% win rates.
- **RK889PCE:** about 7 bu/a above its set in 2025 and 10 bu/a in 2026, with Illinois and Iowa leading.



Picking the Right Fit

The population sets were the biggest new piece of this year's research, and they showed that one seeding rate does not fit every product. Some, like RK4656PCE, RK4696SSPRO, RK5652PCE, and RK6610PCE, still gained yield at the top of the tested range and fit higher rates on productive ground. Others, like RK2622PCE and RK2577PCE, did their best at moderate rates, and RK9601SSPRO and RK9601TRE showed little gain from going higher. Your Renk DSM can share the 2026 population response for each product so you can set rates product by product.

The late-season stalk stress in 2026 also gives us better placement notes. Products that showed crown rot or late stalks at a few stressed sites belong on well-drained fields, earlier in the harvest order, with stalks checked in September. Products with a tar spot rating of 5 and a strong fungicide response pay back a planned fungicide pass where disease shows up. These are management notes, not red flags, and they help each product show what it can do.

Planning Your 2027 Corn Acres

- **Look for consistency.** Lean on results across many locations and both years, not one plot. Hybrids that hold up across locations are the ones most likely to repeat next year.
- **Plant more than one maturity.** Spreading acres across two or three maturities spreads out pollination and weather risk and gives you a better harvest window.
- **Set seeding rate by hybrid.** Hybrid genetics affect the best seeding rate. Ask about each product's 2026 population response and match rates to field productivity.
- **Match traits to the field.** Use corn-on-corn ratings, disease scores, and trait packages to put each product where it fits, and keep products without below-ground traits on rotated ground.

Looking Ahead to 2027

With a strong new class of products and population data behind each one, 2027 is a great year to try something new on your farm. Talk with your Renk DSM about where these products fit on your acres. They can walk you through the full 2026 results for any product, including head-to-head comparisons and population response.