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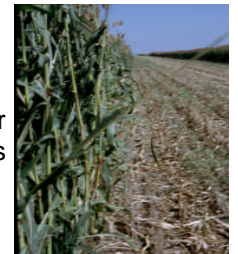
## Forage Producers Tech Guide: Forage Standability

The ability of forage crops to remain standing is important. Lodged forage crops may not be able to photosynthesize and / or translocate nutrients and water efficiently, which can result in loss of yield. In addition, lodged crops may slow harvest operations or may cause harvest loss. Although lodging can be a problem in any production setting, it is most likely to occur when producing silage, since silage crops are often left in the field later than other forage crops. The brown midrib trait has been associated with forage lodging or lack of standability since it causes plants to accumulate less lignin as they mature. Following is a review of forage standability with emphasis on the BMR trait.



Pictured is Dividend BMR hybrid forage sorghum in Gray County, Kansas under center pivot irrigated production during 2002. As you can see, there is a high percentage of lodged plants.

Pictured is Sharp Brothers Seed Company Canex BMR 310 hybrid forage sorghum under center pivot irrigation in Scott County, Kansas in 2002. In this situation less than 1 percent of the plants were lodged. How do different hybrids perform side-by-side?



Pictured is BMR 100 hybrid forage sorghum on the right, with a high percentage of lodged plants. Canex BMR 310 is on the left with almost no lodged plants. This picture was taken in Gray County, Kansas, 2002 drought season. The field is dryland.

Producers who want to review the standability characteristics of BMR forage sorghums should refer to the large sorghum trial conducted each year at Texas A&M Bushland Station in the Texas Panhandle. When evaluating the data, two things are clear. First, some BMR hybrids, as well as some standard genetics hybrids, have poor standability ratings, while other BMR hybrids have excellent standability scores. Second, the standability rankings of hybrids in the study are similar from year to year when comparing hybrid to hybrid. Although any hybrid can lodge under extreme weather conditions, many hybrids, including some BMR hybrids, consistently stand well. Following are the standability ratings of a sampling of BMR and standard genetics forages which illustrate this point.

Lodging Scores, Texas Panhandle Forage Sorghum Trial -- Texas A&M -- Bushland Station -- 2000

	Genetic Type	% Lodged
Canex BMR 208	BMR	7%
Canex	Standard	0%
BMR 100	BMR	82%
Bale All III	Standard	43%
Hi-Energy II	Standard	78%
NO348 BMR-X	BMR	13%