

# **KENYA SEED COMPANY L T D**

## **HYBRID MAIZE**

### **DRYLAND AND LOWLAND VARIETIES**



*For more information please contact the:*

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#### **PH 4:**

Pwani Hybrid 4 (PH4) is a fairly new variety released to farmers about 3 years ago. It was mainly targeted for the coastal region of Kenya. It is more adapted to hot humid lowland zones between attitude 0-1200m a.s.l. does well in areas such as Kilifi, Mombasa, Tana River, Lamu and Kwale. It matures 3-4 months after planting and is capable of producing 16 bags of grain per acre. The variety is highly prolific & grows to a height of 300 cm. it produces deep green leaves with green stems. The tassels emerge about 90 days and sheds often 96 days after planting. The silk colour is mainly cream with some light pink. It is tolerant to most leaf and ear diseases and has excellent husk cover and is resistant to lodging.

#### **PH 1:**

The hybrid was released in 1987 and is recommended for the hot humid coastal lowlands (0 – 1200m asl). The hybrid requires a growing season of 75 – 120 days and a minimum precipitation of 400mm per annum. It has been found to do well in Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa districts. It is also suitable for the irrigated lowlands of Tana River district. A spacing of 75 x 30 cm is recommended. It has a better husk cover and can be intercropped with other crops.

#### **DH 01:**

Dry land hybrid 1 (DH01) is an early maturing drought tolerant maize variety released in 1995 to enhance maize

production in the dry areas where Katumani is grown.

The hybrid is recommended to be grown in Arid and Semi arid regions of Kenya. It will perform well in the cotton zone where H511 finds tough going due to low precipitation. It will do well between 800- 1000m asl but can extend up to 1500m asl in the dry areas. It performs well in Kitui, Makueni, and Baringo areas. The hybrid should be sown just before the onset of rains. A seed rate of 20-25kg/ha is recommended.

A spacing of 90x30cm is best for the hybrid. It takes 100-120 days from planting to physiological maturity. The hybrid has a medium size tassels with silks of light purple and cream colour. The hybrid bears white semi-dent kernels. It has good level of resistance to leaf blight common rust and ear-rot. It has a long stay green trait.

#### **DH02:**

Dry land hybrid 2 was also released in 1995. it is a drought resistant hybrid recommended for areas where Katumani composite is grown. It performs best within altitudes 1000-1500m asl. This hybrid fits in the transitional zone where H511 is too late and Kat CB too early & has done well in Mwea, Kitui, parts of Makueni and Baringo. A spacing of 90x30cm is recommended. It has a green stem and light purple silk and open tassels. DH02 is particularly resistant to maize

streak virus. It is tolerant to moisture stress and produces large cobs with dent to flint kernels. It has a long stay green trait and a high harvest index.

### **DH03**

Is an early maturing maize hybrid released in 1999. this hybrid is recommended to be grown in the drier low to medium altitude zones 800-1200m where it performs better than H511. it produces white dent kernels, stems and leaves are green. It produces an open tassel with mainly purple glumes.

#### **Point of merit**

Compared to H511 the variety is:

- Earlier maturing by 3 days
- Shorter by 20 cm
- Higher yielding by 12%
- Has better husk cover
- Has better standing ability and more resistant to blight, msv and is drought tolerant.

### **DH04:**

Is an early maturing maize hybrid and was first entered in the early/ medium Transitional Maize National Performance Trail in 1998. It was released in 2001. This hybrid is recommended to be grown in the dry low to medium altitude zone, 800-1200m asl. It performs better than H511 in the drier zones and Lake Region. It produces white dent kernels and the stems and leaves are green. It produces open tassels with purple glumes. The silk is predominantly cream.

#### **Point of merit**

It out yields DH03 & DH02 though later in maturing than them. Compared to h511:

- Earlier maturing by 2 days
- Shorter by about 19cm
- Higher yielding by about 15 %
- Has better husk cover and standability

### **DH09**

The hybrid is recommended to be grown in the lower coffee zones of Kenya, where H511 is recommended to be grown. This zone lies between the dry and medium altitude zones (1000-1150m asl). It should be grown best in the coffee growing zones of Central and Eastern provinces, Western Kenya, Bungoma, Busia and Teso districts and the Lake area such as Kibos and Siaya. This variety should be sown before the onset of rains at a spacing of 90x30 cm. it takes 3 1/2 to 4 months to reach physiological maturity.

#### **Point of merit:**

Compared to H511 this variety is:

- Higher yielding by 30%
- Has better standability
- Has good husk cover
- Has good ear rot resistance
- Is stable and adapted to targeted agro-ecological zones

### **DH10:**

The hybrid proposed to farmers in the early to medium transitional zones of Kenya. The hybrid performs well within 800-1400m asl. The hybrid does well in Kangundo, Thigio, Thika and Bumula. A spacing of 75 x 30cm is recommended.

#### **Point of merit:**

It out yields H511 by 62.5%.

Compared to H511, the hybrid has several merits:

- Higher grain yielder
- shorter
- More resistant to lodging
- Better husk cover
- More resistant to blight, rusts, gls and ear rots

#### **MANAGEMENT PRACTISES:**

To obtain maximum yield from these seeds, the following factors are important:

1. Prepare the land early at least one month before planting.
2. Plant early before the onset of the rains.
3. Plant the recommended variety for your zone
4. The recommended seed rate is 10kgs per acre at spacing of 90 x 30 cm in drier areas.
5. Use DAP (18:46:0) fertilizer at a rate of 75kgs per acre when planting then top dress with CAN (75-100kg per acre-split) when crop is knee high and at waist high.
6. Keep your crop weed free for the first 8 weeks.
7. Control stalk borer with right chemicals.
8. Ensure your farm s well drained.