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## PuraMaize® Corn Hybrids – Fact Sheet

### What is PuraMaize?

PuraMaize is a powerful new tool for combating GMO contamination and color impurities. It is a natural gene blocking system which impedes fertilization from GMO and blue corn pollen.

### How does PuraMaize work?

PuraMaize harnesses the power of specific gene characteristics that prevent cross pollination. When GMO or blue corn pollen drifts onto the silk of PuraMaize corn hybrids, PuraMaize successfully impedes the “foreign” pollen and is pollinated from surrounding PuraMaize corn.

### Why is Blue River Hybrids working with PuraMaize?

Blue River Hybrids is dedicated to bringing organic farmers high-performing seed, and is first-to-market with three elite PuraMaize corn hybrids—47PM37cncv (102 day), 58PM36cncv (107 day), 71PM50cncv (114 day)—which perform dependably in organic environments.

### Who will benefit from PuraMaize?

PuraMaize is ideal for grain buyers, grain exporters, and organic livestock farmers who want assurance that their grain will be free from GMO contamination or color impurities.

### How does PuraMaize perform?

Bred into elite corn hybrids from Blue River Hybrids, there is no yield drag with PuraMaize. PuraMaize is a pollen recognition system, and does not affect the growth of the plant or grain fill of the developing ear.

### Does PuraMaize change functional properties?

PuraMaize is a pollen recognition system; it does not alter taste or other functional properties.

### What is the science behind PuraMaize?

Some varieties of tropical corn cannot be pollinated by other varieties due to the presence of one or more cross incompatibility genes.

Known in corn genetics as gametophyte factors or GaS, these factors selectively control fertilization by only accepting pollen from corn plants with the same genotype. GA1S and GA2S are two such pollen-blocking genes.

PuraMaize is a gene *system* made up of the GA1S and other genes or gene expressions. It was developed over ten years through traditional plant breeding—*not* genetic engineering.



### **Will PuraMaize prevent all GMO contamination?**

In side-by-side field tests with GMO corn, PuraMaize either eliminates or virtually eliminates contamination. It is not, however, a magic wall—i.e., PuraMaize cannot stop pollen movement, but it can block successful fertilization by non-PuraMaize pollen. Farmers still have to clean out and monitor all equipment used for planting, harvesting, and hauling grain.

### **Are there any PuraMaize planting requirements?**

When planting PuraMaize directly adjacent to a GMO field, use the outer four rows (10 feet) as a buffer zone, particularly if the GMO field is up-wind. PuraMaize strongly prefers its own pollen and the buffer zone creates a PuraMaize pollen-rich environment. When planting PuraMaize near a foundation inbred increase field or hybrid seed production field, maintain a minimum separation of 2,640’.

Fields planted with PuraMaize corn hybrids need to be a minimum of 25 acres to ensure an adequate pollen blanket for fertilization.

### **What is the difference between PuraMaize and popcorn?**

Popcorn also contains the GA1S gametophyte factor, but the GA1S in PuraMaize did not come from popcorn. PuraMaize was developed by working with eight generations of tropical corn varieties.

### **Who developed PuraMaize?**

Tom Hogemeyer (University of Nebraska and Cerrado Natural Systems Group) developed the PuraMaize gene system over ten years using traditional plant breeding, *not* genetic engineering. Working with tropical varieties of corn, Hogemeyer painstakingly brought together specific gene characteristics from obscure sources and bred out deleterious “baggage” to produce the PuraMaize gene system. Cerrado holds the PuraMaize patent (limited to the use of GA1S in yellow dent corn), and Cerrado is an independent company not affiliated with any seed company.

### **How do I order PuraMaize corn hybrids from Blue River Hybrids?**

To order PuraMaize corn hybrids, e-mail [info@blueriverorgseed.com](mailto:info@blueriverorgseed.com) or call 1-800-370-7979.

**Blue River Hybrids** is the leading supplier of organic lines of corn, sudangrass, and sunflower hybrids, as well as soybean, red clover, and alfalfa varieties. Organic farmers choose Blue River Hybrids for dependable performance, backed by an ongoing commitment to organic product development. Blue River Hybrids organic seed is sold by more than 100 dealers and distributors across the United States. To learn more, visit [www.blueriverorgseed.com](http://www.blueriverorgseed.com) or call 800.370.7979.