

United States Patent [19]

Puskaric et al.

[11] Patent Number: 4,731,499

[45] Date of Patent: Mar. 15, 1988

[54] HYBRID CORN PLANT AND SEED

[75] Inventors: Vladimir Puskaric, Woodstock, Canada; Lori Carrigan, New London, Minn.

[73] Assignee: Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., Johnston, Iowa

[21] Appl. No.: 8,179

[22] Filed: Jan. 29, 1987

[51] Int. Cl.⁴ A01H 1/02

[52] U.S. Cl. 800/1; 47/58;
47/DIG. 1

[58] Field of Search 47/58, DIG. 1; 800/1

Primary Examiner—Robert E. Bagwill

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Saidman, Sterne, Kessler & Goldstein

[57] ABSTRACT

According to the invention, there is provided a hybrid corn plant, designated 3790, produced by crossing two Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. proprietary inbred lines of corn. This invention thus relates to the hybrid seed 3790, the hybrid plant produced from the seed, variants, mutants, and modifications of Pioneer hybrid 3790. This hybrid corn plant is characterized by superior yields and excellent early-season cold tolerance, and good grain quality.

4 Claims, No Drawings

HYBRID CORN PLANT AND SEED

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention is in the field of plant breeding, specifically hybrid corn breeding.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The goal of plant breeding is to combine in a single variety/hybrid various desirable traits of the parental lines. For field crops, these traits may include resistance to diseases and insects, tolerance to heat and drought, reducing the time to crop maturity, greater yield, and better agronomic quality. With mechanical harvesting of many crops, uniformity of plant characteristics such as germination and stand establishment, growth rate, maturity, and fruit size, is important.

Field crops are bred through techniques that take advantage of the plant's method of pollination. A plant is self-pollinating if pollen from one flower is transferred to the same or another flower of the same plant. A plant is cross-pollinated if the pollen comes from a flower on a different plant.

Plants that have been self-pollinated and selected for type for many generations become homozygous at almost all gene loci and produce a uniform population of true breeding progeny. A cross between two homozygous plants from differing backgrounds or two homozygous lines produce a uniform population of hybrid plants that may be heterozygous for many gene loci. A cross of two plants each heterozygous at a number of gene loci will produce a population of hybrid plants that differ genetically and will not be uniform.

Corn plants (*Zea mays* L.) can be bred by both self-pollination and cross-pollination techniques. Corn has male flowers, located on the tassel, and female flowers, located on the ear, on the same plant. Natural pollination occurs in corn when wind blows pollen from the tassels to the silks that protrude from the tops of the incipient ears.

The development of corn hybrids requires the development of homozygous inbred lines, the crossing of these lines, and the evaluation of the crosses. Pedigree breeding and recurrent selection breeding methods are used to develop inbred lines from breeding populations. Breeding programs combine desirable traits from two or more inbred lines or various broad-based sources into breeding pools from which new inbred lines are developed by selfing and selection of desired phenotypes. The new inbreds are crossed with other inbred lines and the hybrids from these crosses are evaluated to determine which have commercial potential.

Pedigree breeding starts with the crossing of two genotypes, each of which may have one or more desirable characteristics that is lacking in the other or which complement the other. If the two original parents do not provide all of the desired characteristics, other sources can be included in the breeding population. In the pedigree method, superior plants are selfed and selected in successive generations. In the succeeding generations the heterozygous condition gives way to homogeneous lines as a result of self-pollination and selection. Typically in the pedigree method of breeding five or more generations of selfing and selection is practiced. $F_1 \rightarrow F_2$; $F_2 \rightarrow F_3$; $F_3 \rightarrow F_4$; $F_4 \rightarrow F_5$, etc.

Backcrossing can be used to improve an inbred line. Backcrossing transfers a specific desirable trait from one inbred or source to an inbred that lacks that trait.

This can be accomplished for example by first crossing a superior inbred (A) (recurrent parent) to a donor inbred (non-recurrent parent), which carries the appropriate gene(s) for the trait in question. The progeny of this cross is then mated back to the superior recurrent parent (A) followed by selection in the resultant progeny for the desired trait to be transferred from the non-recurrent parent. After five or more backcross generations with selection for the desired trait, the progeny will be heterozygous for loci controlling the characteristic being transferred, but will be like the superior parent for most or almost all other genes. The last backcross generation would be selfed to give pure breeding progeny for the gene(s) being transferred.

A hybrid corn variety is the cross of two inbred lines, each of which may have one or more desirable characteristics lacked by the other or which complement the other. The hybrid progeny of the first generation is designated F_1 . In the development of hybrids only the F_1 hybrid plants are sought. The F_1 hybrid is more vigorous than its inbred parents. This hybrid vigor, or heterosis, can be manifested in many ways, including increased vegetative growth and increased yield.

The development of a hybrid corn variety involves three steps: (1) the selection of superior plants from various germplasm pools; (2) the selfing of the superior plants for several generations to produce a series of inbred lines, which although different from each other, each breed true and are highly uniform; and (3) crossing the selected inbred lines with unrelated inbred lines to produce the hybrid progeny (F_1). During the inbreeding process the vigor of the lines decreases. Vigor is restored when two unrelated inbred lines are crossed to produce the hybrid progeny (F_1). An important consequence of the homozygosity and homogeneity of the inbred lines is that the hybrid between any two inbreds will always be the same. Once the inbreds that give the best hybrid have been identified, the hybrid seed can be reproduced indefinitely as long as the homogeneity of the inbred parent is maintained.

A single cross hybrid is produced when two inbred lines are crossed to produce the F_1 progeny. A double cross hybrid is produced from four inbred lines crossed in pairs ($A \times B$ and $C \times D$) and then the two F_1 hybrids are crossed again ($A \times B$) \times ($C \times D$). Much of the hybrid vigor exhibited by F_1 hybrids is lost in the next generation (F_2). Consequently, seed from hybrid varieties is not used for planting stock.

Hybrid corn seed can be produced by manual detasseling. Alternative strips of two inbred varieties of corn are planted in a field, and the pollen-bearing tassels are removed from one of the inbreds. Providing that there is sufficient isolation from sources of foreign corn pollen, the ears of the detasselled inbred (female) will be fertilized only from pollen from the other inbred (male), and the resulting seed is therefore hybrid and will form hybrid plants.

The laborious detasseling process can be avoided by using cytoplasmic male-sterile (CMS) inbreds. Plants of a CMS inbred are fertilized with pollen from another inbred that is not male-sterile. Pollen from the second inbred can contribute genes that make the hybrid plants male-fertile. Usually seed from detasseled normal corn and CMS produced of the same hybrid seed is blended to insure that adequate pollen loads are available for fertilization when the hybrid plants are grown.

Corn is an important and valuable field crop. Thus, a continuing goal of plant breeders is to develop stable, high yielding corn hybrids that are agronomically sound. The reasons for this goal are obvious: to maximize the amount of grain produced on the land used and to supply food for both animals and humans.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the invention, there is provided a hybrid corn plant, designated 3790, produced by crossing two Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. proprietary inbred lines of corn. This invention thus relates to the hybrid seed 3790, the hybrid plant produced from the seed, variants, mutants, and modifications of Pioneer hybrid 3790. This hybrid corn plant is characterized by superior yields and excellent early-season cold tolerance, and good grain quality.

DEFINITIONS

In the description and examples that follow, a number of terms are used herein. In order to provide a clear and consistent understanding of the specification and claims, including the scope to be given such terms, the following definitions are provided:

Predicted RM

This trait, predicted relative maturity (RM), for a hybrid is based on the harvest moisture of the grain. The relative maturity rating is based on a known set of checks and utilizes standard linear regression analyses.

GDU Shed

The GDU shed is the number of growing degree units (GDU) required for an inbred line or hybrid to shed pollen from the time of planting. Growing degree units are calculated by the Barger Method, where the heat units for a 24-hour period are:

$$GDU = \frac{(\text{Max.} + \text{Min.})}{2} - 50.$$

The highest maximum used is 86° F. and the lowest minimum used is 50° F. For each hybrid it takes a certain number of GDU's to reach various stages of plant development. GDU's are a way of measuring plant maturity.

MN RM

This represents the Minnesota Relative Maturity Rating (MN RM) for the hybrid and is based on the harvest moisture of the grain relative to a standard set of checks of previously determined MN RM rating. Regression analyses is used to compute this rating.

BL RM

This is a relative maturity rating based on GDU's required for the hybrid to reach black layer (physiological maturity). Regression analysis is used to compare the given hybrid to a standard set of checks.

GDU BL

This is the number of growing degree units required for the hybrid to reach black layer from the time that it was planted.

SLK RM

This is the relative maturity based on the number of GDU's to silking of a hybrid relative to a standard set of checks of predetermined SLK RM. Regression analysis is used to compute this relative rating.

GDU Sik

This is the number of GDU's that the hybrid requires to reach silking from the time of planting.

Selection Index

The selection index gives a single measure of the hybrid's worth based on information for up to five traits. A corn breeder may utilize his or her own set of traits for the selection index. One of the traits that is almost always included is yield. The selection index data presented in the tables in the specification represent the mean value averaged across testing stations.

Yield (Bushels/Acre)

The yield in bushels/acre is the actual yield of the grain at harvest adjusted to 15.5% moisture.

Percent Yield

The percent yield is the yield obtained for the hybrid in terms of percent of the mean for the experiments in which it was grown.

Moisture

The moisture is the actual percentage moisture of the grain at harvest.

Yield/Moisture

This represents a rating for a hybrid's yield relative to its grain moisture at harvest.

Dry Down

This represents the relative rate at which a hybrid will reach acceptable harvest moisture compared to other hybrids. A high score indicates a hybrid that dries relatively fast while a low score indicates a hybrid that dries slowly.

Drought Tolerance

This represents a rating for drought tolerance, and is based on data obtained under stress conditions.

Stalk Lodging

This is the percentage of plants that do not stalk lodge, i.e. stalk breakage, as measured by either natural lodging or pushing the stalks over the determining the percentage of plants that break off below the ear. This is a relative rating of a hybrid to other hybrids for standability.

Root Lodging

The root lodging is the percentage of plants that do not root lodge, i.e. those that lean from the verticle axis at an approximate 30° angle or greater would be counted as root lodged.

Plants Per Acre

This is the plant density estimated for the hybrid on a per acre basis.

Ears Per Plot

This is the measure of the number of ears per plot adjusted for stand and given as a percentage.

Stay Green

Stay green is the measure of plant health near the time of black layer formation (physiological maturity). A high score indicates better late-season plant health.

Test Weight

This is the measure of the weight of the grain in pounds for a given volume (bushel) adjusted for percent moisture.

Cob Score

The cob score is a rating of how well the grain is shelled off the cob and how badly the cob is broken up going through the combine. A high score indicates that the grain shells off of the cob well and the cob does not break.

Purple Seedling

This is an indication of purple coloring at the seedling stage. A low score indicates greater purple coloring.

Grain Quality

This is a rating for the general quality of the shelled grain as it is harvested based on the color of the har-

vested grain, any mold on the grain, and any cracked grain. High scores indicate good grain quality.

Seedling Vigor

This is the visual rating of the amount of vegetative growth after emergence at the seedling stage (approximately five leaves). A higher score indicates better vigor.

Early Stand Count

This is a measure of the stand establishment in the spring, and represents the number of plants that emerge on a per plot basis for the hybrid.

Plant Height

This is a measure of the height of the hybrid from the ground to the tip of the tassel and is measured in six inch increments.

Ear Height

The ear height is a measure from the ground to the ear node attachment and is measured in six inch increments.

Dropped Ears

This is a measure of the percentage of plants that did not drop ears prior to harvest.

Brittle Stalks

This is a measure of the stalk breakage near the time of pollination of the hybrids, and is an indication of whether a hybrid would snap or break at the time of flowering under severe winds. Data are presented as percentage of plants that did not snap.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Hybrid 3790 is a single cross made with Pioneer Hi-Bred proprietary corn inbred lines PH86790A and PH86790B.

To produce 3790, either inbred parental line can be used as the female parent or the male parent. Preferably inbred PH86790A should be the female of the cross and inbred PH86790B should be the male of the cross. Production planting should be timed so that the male pollen is shed at the same time that the female silks are receptive to the pollen. The male inbred sheds pollen 115 GDU's later than the female silks. Therefore the planting of the female inbred should be delayed 115 GDU's to obtain maximum pollination with the male inbred. The hybrid corn seed 3790 produced by this cross can then be planted to produce the hybrid plant.

3790 is an early flowering hybrid, broadly adapted to the corn growing areas of the northern United States and southern Canada. This hybrid has high yield, low grain moistures, excellent seedling vigor, good late-season plant health, high test weight and outstanding grain quality.

3790 responds favorably to high plant densities. Its good grain quality is characterized by high test weight grain of fairly hard texture. The hybrid has good stay green coupled with good stalk strength, but only average root strength. It will tend to put on second ears at lower plant densities and ear size is not large. In the spring, plants have good seedling vigor, but tend to have purple seedlings under cool emergence conditions. There can be some brittle stalk breakage with extreme winds near flowering time. The hybrid has good northern leaf blight tolerance. 3790 is rated as a 95 RM hybrid based on harvest moisture of the grain, and as a 99 RM hybrid based on black layer formation or physiological maturity (approximately 2544 GDU's from planting).

This hybrid has the following characteristics based on descriptive data collected at Johnston, Iowa:

A. Maturity

Growing degree units of physiological maturity: 2444

Minnesota relative maturity in days: 95

B. Plant

Height (to tassel tip): 260 cm

Ear height (to base of top ear): 103 cm

Length of top internode: 15 cm

Number of tillers: None

Number of ears per stalk: 1-2

Cytoplasm type: Normal

C. Leaf

Color: Medium green (WF9)

Angle from stalk: 30°-60°

Sheath pubescence: Light (W22)

Marginal waves: Many (OH7L4)

Longitudinal creases: Few (OH56A)

Number of leaves per mature plant: 20

Length of ear node leaf: 89 cm

D. Tassel

Number of lateral branches: 8

Branch angle from central spike: 30°-40°

Peduncle length (from top leaf to basal branches): 22 cm

Pollen shed: Medium

Anther color: Yellow

Glume color: Green

E. Ear (husked ear data unless stated otherwise):

Length: 18 cm

Mid-point diameter: 44 mm

Weight: 183 g

Kernel rows: 14; distinct; straight

Silk color (exposed at silking stage): Green

Husk color: Fresh/light green; dry/buff

Husk extension (harvest stage): Short (tip of ear exposed)

Shank: 16 cm long; internodes: 7

Taper: Slight

Position at dry husk stage: Upright

Drying time (unhusked ear): Average

F. Kernel (dried)

Size (from ear mid-point): 11 mm long; 9 mm wide; 4 mm thick

Shape grade (% rounds): <20

Pericarp color: Colorless

Aleurone color: Homozygous; yellow

Endosperm color: Yellow

Endosperm type: Normal starch

Weight/100 seeds (unsized samples): 32.2 g

G. Cob

Diameter at mid-point: 24 mm

Strength: Strong

Color: Red

H. Disease Resistance

Corn lethal necrosis: Susceptible

Anthracnose stalk rot: Intermediate

Northern leaf blight: Intermediate

H. carbonum leaf blight: Intermediate

Common rust: Tolerant

Eye spot: Intermediate

Gray leaf spot: Intermediate

Gross' bacterial wilt: Susceptible

Common smut: Intermediate

Head smut: Intermediate

Downy mildew: Susceptible

Fusarium ear rot: Intermediate

Gibberella ear rot: Tolerant

I. Insect Resistance

European corn borer 1 leaf feeding: Intermediate

European corn borer 2: Tolerant

Corn root worm root lodging: Susceptible

This invention includes the hybrid corn seed of 3790, the hybrid corn plant produced from the hybrid corn seed, and variants, modifications, and mutants of 3790. This invention also relates to the use of 3790 in producing three-way and double cross hybrids.

The terms variant, modification, and mutant refer to a hybrid seed or a plant produced by that hybrid seed which is phenotypically similar to 3790.

As used herein, the term "plant" includes plant cells, plant protoplasts, plant cell or tissue culture from which corn plants can be regenerated, plant calli, plant clumps and plant cells that are intact in plants or parts of plants, such as flowers, kernels, ears, cobs, leaves, husks, stalks and the like.

Tissue culture of corn is described in European Patent Application, publication No. 160,390, incorporated herein by reference. Corn tissue culture procedures are also described in Green and Rhodes, "Plant Regeneration In Tissue Culture of Maize," *Maize for Biological Research*, (Plant Molecular Biology Association, Charlottesville, Virginia 1982) at 367-372.

USES OF CORN

Corn is used as human food, livestock feed, and as raw material in industry. The food uses of corn, in addition to human consumption of corn kernels, include both products of dry- and wet-milling industries. The principal products of corn dry milling are grits, meal and flour. The corn wet-milling industry can provide starch, syrups, and dextrose for food use. Corn oil is recovered from corn germ, which is a by-product of both dry- and wet-milling industries.

Corn is also used extensively as livestock feed primarily to beef cattle, dairy cattle, hogs, and poultry.

Industrial uses of corn are mainly from corn starch from the wet-milling industry and corn flour from the dry-milling industry. The industrial applications of corn starch and flour are based on functional properties, such as viscosity, film formation, adhesive properties, and ability to suspend particles. The corn starch and flour have application in the paper and textile industries. Other industrial uses include applications in adhesives, building materials, foundry binders, laundry starches, explosives, oil-well muds, and other mining applications.

Plant parts other than the grain of corn are also used in industry. Stalks and husks are made into paper and wallboard and cobs are used for fuel, to make charcoal.

The seed of hybrid 3790, the hybrid corn plant produced from the seed, and various parts of the hybrid

corn plant can be utilized for human food, livestock feed, and as a raw material in industry.

EXAMPLES

In the examples that follow, the traits and characteristics of 3790 are given. The history of this hybrid is as follows: The hybrid was first made at the Pioneer Hybrid International, Inc., Willmar Corn Research Station in Willmar, Minn. In the first year, the experimental cross was tested in elite trials at the following corn research stations: Bowling Green, Ohio; Willmar, Minn.; and Woodstock, Ontario. It was also tested at the Mankato Corn Research Station in Minnesota in a more preliminary type research yield test. Along with 3790; 3,933 non-specialty hybrids were evaluated. Of these 3,933 hybrids, 374 were wide area hybrids. A total of 38 replications or "reps" (one experiment/one location/one time) of yield test data were collected on the hybrid for some traits.

Additional hybrid seed was produced by several research stations including Bowling Green, Ohio; Woodstock, Ontario; and Willmar, Minn. There was some seed produced for Willmar at Pioneer's Homestead, Fla., location (winter nursery).

In the second year trials, the hybrid was tested widely in research trails and 105 replications of yield test data were collected on some agronomic traits.

In the third year trials, the hybrid was tested widely in research trials and 223 replications of data were collected in the United States and Canada in advanced trials on some traits. Also the hybrid was tested widely in strip tests across the United States and Canada in its maturity zone of adaption. In conjunction with the yield testing, the hybrid was also included in disease and insect tests to determine its relative performance to known hybrids. Also, limited data were collected concerning herbicide tolerance at Johnston, Iowa.

In the examples that follow, the data collected on hybrid 3790 is presented for the key characteristics and traits. The scores are on a scale of 1 to 9, with 9 being the best unless otherwise indicated. The scores based on extensive testing are subjective in nature, but include input from expert corn researchers.

EXAMPLE I

Comparison of Various Corn Hybrid Characteristics

Comparison of the characteristics of 3790 were made against Pioneer brand hybrids 3906 and 3803, corn hybrids developed and marketed by applicant in the same maturity zone as 3790.

Comparison of the characteristics of 3790 was also made against DeKalb Pfizer DK399 and XL8 corn hybrids. The results of these comparison are given in Tables IA through ID.

TABLE IA

COMPARISON OF HYBRIDS 3790 AND 3906 FROM PERIOD OF YEARS RESEARCH DATA										
HYBRID	PRE-DICTED RM	SELECTION INDEX	PERCENT YIELD	YIELD (BU./AC.)	MOISTURE No. of Reps	GDU SHED	STALK LODGING	ROOT LODGING	EARS/PLOT	STAY GREEN
	309	309	307	307	313	46	289	141	30	110
3790	95	107	108	133	24.7	1193	91.6	93.8	103.3	5.9
3906	97	98	102	125.5	25.1	1194	84.1	96.7	99	4.9
DIFF.	2	9	6	7.5	.5	1	7.6	2.9	4.3	1.0
PROB*			.00#	.00#	.00#	.83	.00#	.00#	.02+	.00#
	TEST	GRAIN	COB	SEED-LING VIG-	EARLY STAND	PLANT	EAR	DROP-PED	BRITTLE	

TABLE IA-continued

COMPARISON OF HYBRIDS 3790 AND 3906 FROM PERIOD OF YEARS RESEARCH DATA									
HYBRID	WEIGHT	QUALITY	SCORE	OR	COUNT	HEIGHT	HEIGHT	EARS	STALKS
No. of Reps									
	306	183	43	167	278	186	186	240	13
3790	54.9	6.9	6.3	6.5	61.9	16.2	7.3	99.8	98.5
3906	52.4	5.5	4.9	6.2	63.8	16.2	6.6	99.8	99.6
DIFF.	2.5	1.4	1.5	.3	1.9	.1	.7	.1	1.0
PROB.*	.00#	.00#	.00#	.01+	.00#	.34	.00#	.41	.37

*+ and # represent significance at the .05 and .01 probability level, respectively.

STATIONS TESTED: BOWLING GREEN, OHIO; WOODSTOCK, ONTARIO, CANADA; WILLMAR MINNESOTA; HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA; JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN; ALMA, MICHIGAN; MANKATO, MINNESOTA; AND NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA.

TABLE IB

COMPARISON OF HYBRIDS 3790 AND 3803 FROM PERIOD OF YEARS RESEARCH DATA										
HYBRID	PRE-DICTED RM	SELEC-TION INDEX	PER-CENT YIELD	YIELD (BU./AC.)	MOIS-TURE	GDU SHED	STALK LODG-ING	ROOT LODG-ING	EARS/PLOT	STAY GREEN
No. of Reps										
	308	312	312	312	317	49	297	153	30	109
3790	95	107	108	131.7	24.8	1188	91.1	94.2	103.3	5.8
3803	94	102	105	128.1	24.5	1225	89.5	90.9	105.3	5.7
DIFF.	1	5	3	3.6	0.3	37	1.6	3.3	2.1	.2
PROB.*			.00#	.00#	.00#	.00#	.02+	.00#	.32	.37

HYBRID	TEST WEIGHT	GRAIN QUALITY	COB SCORE	SEED-LING VIG-OR	EARLY STAND COUNT	PLANT HEIGHT	EAR HEIGHT	DROP-PED EARS	BRITTLE STALKS
No. of Reps									
	309	179	43	167	283	189	189	245	4
3790	54.8	6.9	6.4	6.4	62.2	16.1	7.3	99.8	95.8
3803	53.3	5.7	5.8	5.8	61.1	16.3	7.6	99.9	96.5
DIFF.	1.5	1.1	.6	.6	1.1	0.2	.3	.2	.7
PROB.*	.00#	.00#	.03+	.00#	.01+	.02+	.00#	.01+	.60

*+ and # represent significance at the .05 and .01 probability level, respectively.

STATIONS TESTED: BOWLING GREEN, OHIO; WOODSTOCK, ONTARIO, CANADA; WILLMAR, MINNESOTA; HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA; JANESVILLE, WI; ALMA, MICHIGAN; and MANKATO, MINNESOTA.

TABLE IC

COMPARISON OF 3790 AND DEKALB PFIZER'S DK399 FROM PERIOD OF YEARS RESEARCH DATA							
HYBRID	PER-CENT YIELD	YIELD (BU./AC.)	MOIS-TURE	STALK LODG-ING	ROOT LODG-ING	EARS/PLOT	STAY GREEN
No. of Reps							
	12	12	12	12	12	6	6
3790	107	152.1	23.4	99.4	100	115.6	6.0
DK399	90	129.0	23.1	95.8	99.7	110.3	3.5
DIFF.	16	23	.3	3.5	.3	5.3	2.5
PROB.*	.00#	.00#	.20#	.01#	.17	.39	.00#

HYBRID	TEST WEIGHT	GRAIN QUALITY	COB SCORE	SEED-LING VIG-OR	EARLY STAND COUNT	PLANT HEIGHT	EAR HEIGHT
No. of Reps							
	12	12	3	6	9	6	6
3790	56.9	7.3	6.0	6.5	66.3	17.5	8.8
DK399	54.9	5.8	6.3	6.5	64.7	17.7	8.2
DIFF.	2.0	1.4	.3	.0	1.7	.2	.7
PROB.*	.00#	.00#	.74	.00#	.21	.69	.02+

*+ and # represent significance at the .05 and .01 probability level, respectively.

STATIONS TESTED: JANESVILLE, WI.

TABLE 1D

COMPARISON OF 3790 AND DEKALB PFIZER'S XL8 FROM PERIOD OF YEARS RESEARCH DATA												
HY-BRID	PER-CENT YIELD	YIELD (BU./AC.)	MOIS-TURE	GDU SHED	STALK LODG-ING	STAY GREEN	TEST WEIGHT	GRAIN QUAL-ITY	SEED-LING VIG-OR	EARLY STAND COUNT	PLANT HEIGHT	EAR HEIGHT
	No. of Reps											
	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
3790	120	156.0	26.7	117.	98.1	8.0	52.8	6.5	5.5	69.3	17.3	8.8
XL8	97	126.1	24.6	119.	95.2	6.0	53.1	5.5	5.0	70.0	18.3	8.0
DIFF.	23	29.9	2.1	2.0	2.9	2.0	.3	1.0	.5	.8	1.0	.8
PROB.*	.00#	.00#	.00#	.34	.55	.02+	.36	.18	.18	.55	.00#	.06

*+ and # represent significance at the .05 and .01 probability level, respectively.
STATIONS TESTED: WOODSTOCK-ONTARIO, CANADA

EXAMPLE II

Strip Test Data

Comparison data was collected from strip tests that were grown by farmers. Each hybrid was grown in strips of 4, 6, 8, 12, etc. rows in fields depending on the size of the planter used. The data were collected from strip tests that had the hybrids in the same field. At harvest, the grain was harvested from a measured area and weighed. The moisture percentage was determined to compute yield and bushels per acre was adjusted to 15.5% moisture. Each replication or "rep" represents a distinct field.

Comparison strip testing was done between 3790 and Pioneer brand hybrids 3803 and 3906. Comparison strip

testing was also done between 3790 and DeKalb Pfizer's corn hybrid XL8 and Jacques' corn hybrid 4700.

The results are presented in Tables IIA through IID. Traits characterized on the strip test data in addition to those defined previously are as follows:

Number of Wins

For yield, this number represents the number of times a given hybrid won the comparison. For percent moisture, it would be the number of times a hybrid had lower harvest moisture compared to the other hybrid.

Percent Standing

This is the percentage of plants not broken below the ear at the time of harvest.

Root Lodging

This is based upon a 1-9 rating with 9 representing no lodging and 1 representing a very high level of root lodging.

TABLE IIA

COMPARISON OF HYBRIDS 3790 AND 3803 FROM 1985 STRIP TEST DATA										
HYBRID	YIELD		MOISTURE		PERCENT STANDING	ROOT LODGING NO. OF REPS	PLANTS PER ACRE	TEST WEIGHT	ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME	
	BU/AC	NO. OF WINS	%	NO. OF WINS					\$/AC.	NO. OF WINS
3790	114		114		61	31	62	59		
3790	137.5	77	24.9	50	98.4	7.9	23,600	55.9	283.76	78
3803	113.0	31	24.7	60	97.4	8.0	23,800	54.0	274.97	33

DIVISIONS TESTING: ILLINOIS-WISCONSIN, CENTRAL, EASTERN, PIONEER HI-BRED LIMITED (CANADA)

TABLE IIB

COMPARISON OF HYBRIDS 3790 AND 3906 FROM 1985 STRIP TEST DATA										
HYBRID	YIELD		MOISTURE		PERCENT STANDING	ROOT LODGING NO. OF REPS	PLANTS PER ACRE	TEST WEIGHT	ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME	
	BU/AC	NO. OF WINS	%	NO. OF WINS					\$/AC.	NO. OF WINS
3790	116		116		55	29	56	60		
3790	141.2	90	23.7	93	98.0	8.0	25,200	56.1	294.58	99
3906	134.3	21	24.7	18	97.6	8.0	25,700	53.4	277.17	17

DIVISIONS TESTING: ILLINOIS-WISCONSIN, CENTRAL, EASTERN, PLAINS, AND PIONEER HI-BRED LIMITED (CANADA)

TABLE IIC

COMPARISON OF HYBRID 3790 AND DEKALB PFIZER'S XL8 FROM 1985 STRIP TEST DATA										
HYBRID	YIELD		MOISTURE		PERCENT STANDING	ROOT LODGING NO. OF REPS	PLANTS PER ACRE	TEST WEIGHT	ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME	
	BU/AC	NO. OF WINS	%	NO. OF WINS					\$/AC.	NO. OF WINS
3790	6		6		3	2	3			
3790	130.5	6	28.6	3	99.6	9.0	22,500	—	261.56	6
XL8	102.4	0	28.3	3	89.5	7.0	23,100	—	207.51	0

DIVISIONS TESTING: ILLINOIS-WISCONSIN

TABLE IID

COMPARISON OF HYBRID 3790 AND JACQUES' 4700 FROM 1985 STRIP TEST DATA										
HYBRID	YIELD		MOISTURE			ROOT LODGING NO. OF REPS	PLANTS PER ACRE	TEST WEIGHT	ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME	
	BU/AC	NO. OF WINS	%	NO. OF WINS	PERCENT STANDING				\$/AC.	NO. OF WINS
	8		8		3	2	3	2		
3790	154.6	8	24.2	3	100.0	9.0	22,400	60.5	323.70	6
4700	141.6	0	24.1	5	88.9	8.5	19,500	56.5	296.98	2

DIVISIONS TESTING: ILLINOIS-WISCONSIN

EXAMPLE III

Comparison of Key Traits

Characteristics of hybrid 3790 were compared to Pioneer brand hybrids 3906 and 3803 for key traits. Table III gives the comparison characteristics for 3790 compared to Pioneer brand hybrids 3906 and 3803. These data were compiled utilizing the research data

Table III. A score of 9 indicates outstanding resistance, while a score of 1 indicates that the hybrid is very susceptible to the disease or insect given. The diseases and insects tested include: anthracnose stalk rot (Anth Stk Rot); northern and southern corn leaf blight (No lf blht and So lf blht); gray leaf spot (gray lf spot); and European corn borer tolerance-second brood (Eur CB2 SC).

TABLE III

CHARACTERISTICS OF HYBRIDS 3790, 3906 AND 3803 FOR KEY TRAITS													
HYBRID	MN RM	BL RM	GDU BL	SLK RM	GDU SLK	YLD/MOIST	DRY-DOWN	STK LODG	RT LODG	STAY GRN	DROUGHT TOL	TEST WT	PUR SDLG*
3790	95	99	2544	—	—	8	5	8	6	8	5	8	3
3803	94	101	2561	99	1293	6	7	6	5	6	7	5	6
3906	97	93	2477	100	1304	5	5	4	8	3	6	5	4

HYBRID	SDLG VIG	DROP EARS	BRITTLE STK	PLANT HT	AMTH STK ROT	NO LF BLHT	SO LF BLHT	EYESPOT	GRAY LF SPOT	HEAD SMUT	EUR CB2 SC
3790	8	5	4	4	5	7	—	5	3	5	6
3803	5	6	3	5	5	5	6	5	3	7	5
3906	7	6	6	3	4	4	4	3	3	8	5

*9 = Green,
1 = purple.

for each of the hybrids that are listed. The ratings given for most of the traits are on a 1 to 9 basis. In these cases 9 would be outstanding, while a 1 would be poor for the given characteristic. The values are based on performance of the given hybrid relative to other Pioneer commercial and precommercial hybrids.

The traits characterized in Table III were defined previously. Disease and insect resistance are rated in

EXAMPLE IV

Ratings for Disease and Insect Traits

Table IVA gives the average ratings for disease and insect traits of 3790. Table IVB is a comparison of ratings for disease and insect traits between hybrid 3790 and Pioneer brand hybrids 3803 and 3906.

TABLE IVA

AVERAGE RATINGS FOR DISEASE AND INSECT TRAITS FOR HYBRID 3790									
Hybrid	Corn Lethal Necrosis	Anthra-nose Stalk Rot	Northern Leaf Blight	Helmin-thosporium Leaf Blight	Common Rust	Eye Spot	Gray Leaf Spot	Goss's Wilt	Common Smut ¹
	No. of Locs.								
	1	2	5	1	1	2	5	3	3
3790	4	5	7	6	8	5	3	5	100

Hybrid	Head Smut ¹	Downy Mildew ¹	Fusarium Ear Rot ¹	European Corn Borer I Leaf Feeding	European Corn Borer II Rating	European Corn Borer II ² Tunnelling	Corn Root Worm Root Lodging Severity
	No. of Locs.						
	7	1	3	6	9	1	1
3790	97	36	44	4	6	11	8

These ratings are based on a 1 to 9 score with 1 being susceptible and 9 being resistant with the following exceptions:
¹Percentage not infected. Percentage of plants that did not express symptoms of the disease: Common smut, Head smut, Downy mildew, and Fusarium ear rot.
²Length of tunnelling in stalk (inches). This is a measure of the tunnelling in the stalk caused by the insect: European corn borer.

TABLE IVB

HY- BRID	CLN VIRUS	COMMON SMUT	AN- THRAC- NOSE STALK ROT	NORTH- ERN CORN LEAF BLIGHT	HELMIN- THOSPORIUM LEAF BLIGHT	COMMON RUST	EYE SPOT	GRAY LEAF SPOT	GOSS'S WILT	HEAD SMUT	DOWNY MILDEW
No. of Locs.											
	1	3	2	5	1	1	2	5	3	4	1
3790	4	100	5	7	6	8	5	3	5	95	36
3803	4	99	5	6	6	5	5	3	3	92	49
No. of Locs.											
	1	3	2	5	1	1	1	5	3	2	1
3790	4	100	5	7	6	8	3	3	5	96	36
3906	4	96	3	4	5	6	1	3	6	94	22

EXAMPLE V

Entomology Traits

A comparison was made between the entomology traits of 3790 and Pioneer brand hybrids 3803 and 3906. The results of this comparison testing is given in Tables VA and VB.

The following is a brief description of the traits used for these comparisons.

European corn borer, dropped ears.

(ECB drop. ear) This is a measure of the number of plants that dropped ears and is an indication of corn borers in the shank. This number is given by a percentage of plants without such dropped ears.

ECB2 SC

This is a visual rating based on degree of second of leaf feeding by first brood corn borer with 9 being resistant.

ECB1 LF. FD

This is a visual rating based on the degree of leaf feeding by first brood corn borer with 9 being resistant.

ECB2 TUN

This is a measure of the total length of corn borer tunnels per plant in inches.

Corn R.W. LDG

This is a visual rating of the amount of root lodging with 9 being no root lodging on plants that have a high level of corn rootworms.

TABLE VA

Hybrid	Entomology Traits				
	ECB		ECB1		
	Rt. Ldg.	Drop. Ear	ECB2 SC	Lf. Fd.	ECB2 Tun.
	No. of Repts				
3790	75	97	6	4	11
3803	54	97	6	3	16

TABLE VB

Hybrid	Entomology Traits					
	ECB		ECB1		ECB2	
	Rt. Ldg.	Drop. Ear	Lf. Fd.	Tun.	R.W. Ldg.	
	No. of Repts					
3790	75	97	6	4	11	8
3906	81	97	6	5	11	7

EXAMPLE VI

Isozyme Genotypes for 3790

Isozyme data was generated for hybrid corn 3790 according to the procedure described in Goodman, M.

M. and Stuber, C. M., "Genetic identification of lines and crosses using isoenzyme electrophoresis," *Proceedings of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Corn and Sorghum Industry Research Conference*, Chicago, Ill. (1980). The results are shown in the following Table VI.

TABLE VI

Locus	Isozyme Genotypes for 3790	
	Alleles Present	Frequency
Acp1	2-4	50-50
Adh1	4	100
Cat3	9	100
Dia1	4-6	50-50
Glu1	6-7	50-50
Got1	4	100
Got2	4	100
Got3	4	100
Idh1	4	100
Idh2	6	100
Mdh1	6	100
Mdh2	6	100
Mdh3	16	100
Mdh4	12	100
Mdh5	12	100
Pgd1	3,8	100
Pgd2	5	100
Pgm1	9	100
Pgm2	4	100
Phi1	4-5	50-50

Although the foregoing invention has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity and understanding, it will be obvious that certain changes and modifications may be practiced within the scope of the invention, as limited only by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. Hybrid corn seed designated 3790.
2. A hybrid corn plant and its plant parts produced by the seed of claim 1.
3. Corn plants and the seed thereof regenerated from

tissue culture of the hybrid corn plant and plant parts of claim 2.

4. A hybrid corn plant with the phenotypic characteristics of the hybrid plant of claim 2.

* * * * *