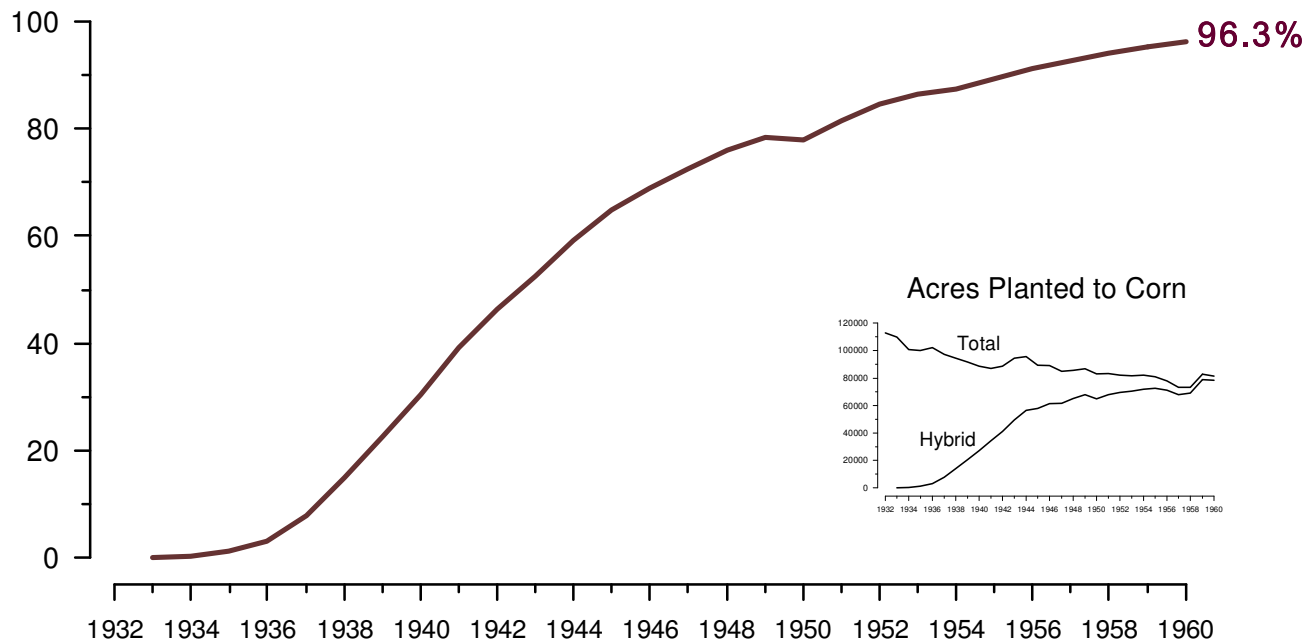
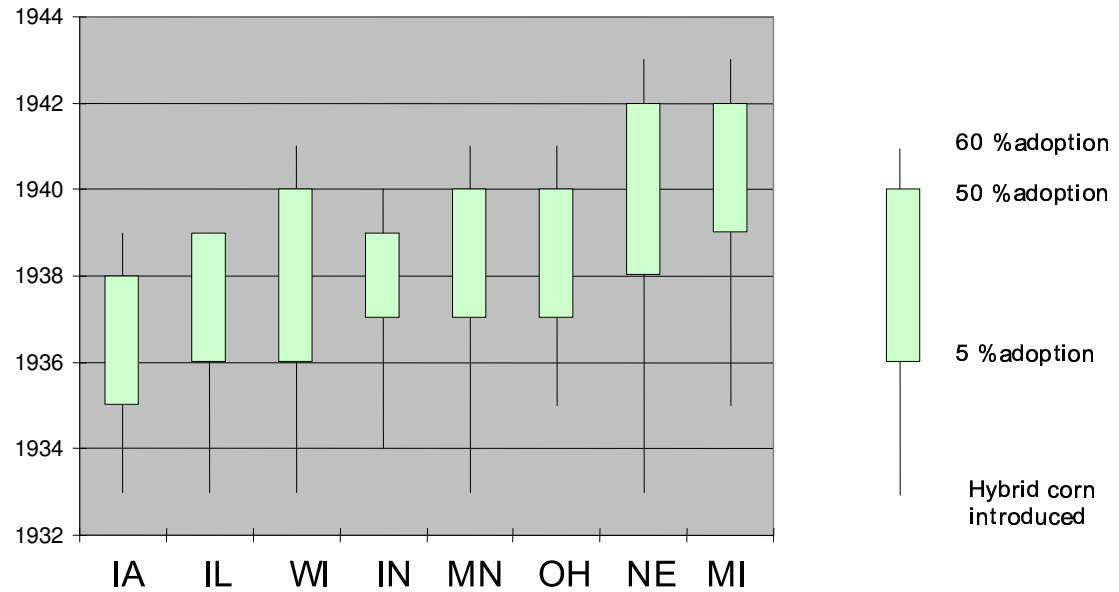


## Percent of Corn Acreage Planted to Hybrid Varieties



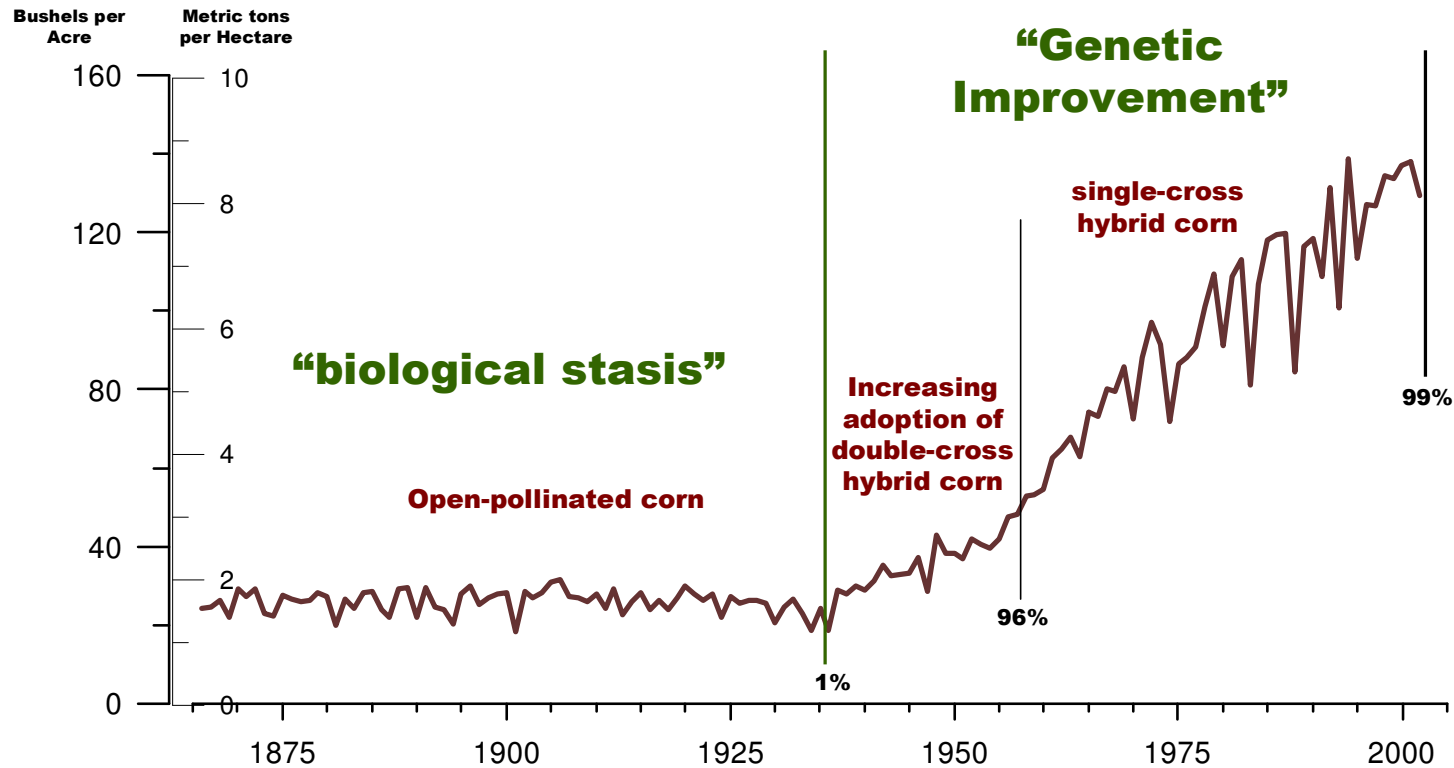
Source: Acreage planted to hybrid seed corn from USDA, *Agricultural Statistics*, 1962, Table 46, p. 41, divided by acreage planted to corn from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Historical Track Records*, April 2004, p.19.

## Geographic Supply Lags were Rapidly Eliminated



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**FIGURE 2**

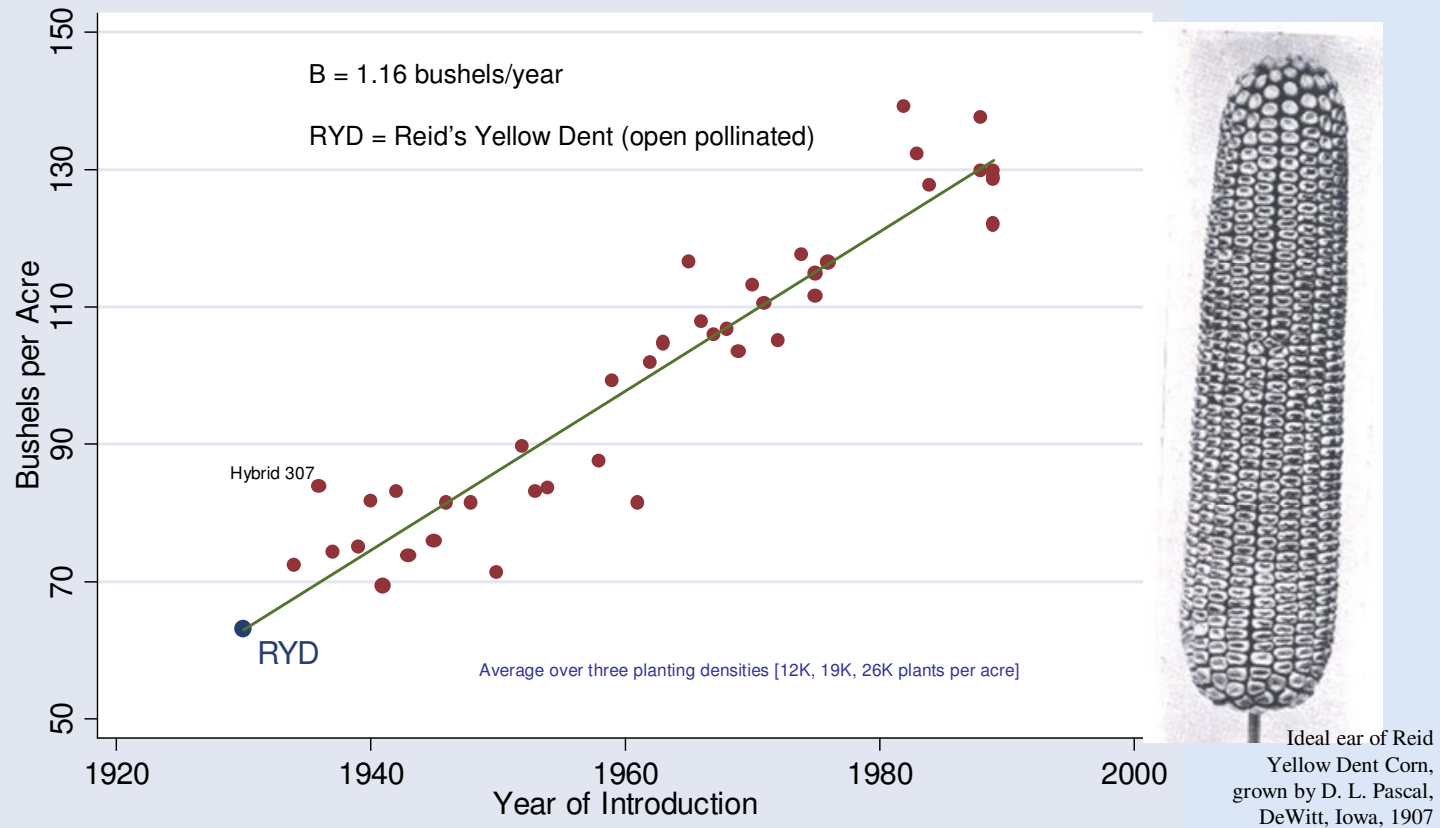
# U.S. Corn Yields, 1866-2002



Source: Susan B. Carter, et al, editors, *Historical Statistics of the United States*, Cambridge University Press, 2006, Series Da693-694. United States National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Field Crops: Final Estimates, 1997-2002*, Statistical Bulletin Number 982a, March 2004, pp. 7 & 9.

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**FIGURE 3**

## Hybrid Grain Yield by Year of Introduction of the Variety



Source: Dan N. Duvick, "Genetic Contributions to Advances in Yield of U.S. Maize," *Maydica* (37) 1992: 69-79; Table 3, p. 73.

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**FIGURE 4**

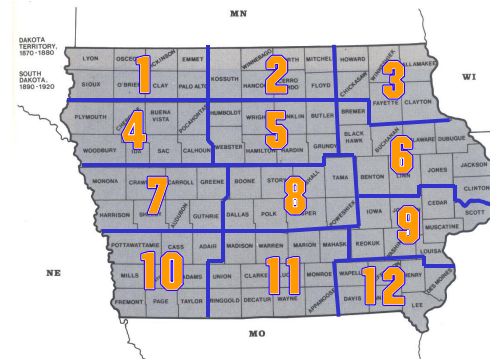
# Iowa Corn Yield Tests, 1926-1940

Relative Average Yield for all Hybrid Varieties  
All Open-Pollinated Varieties = 100

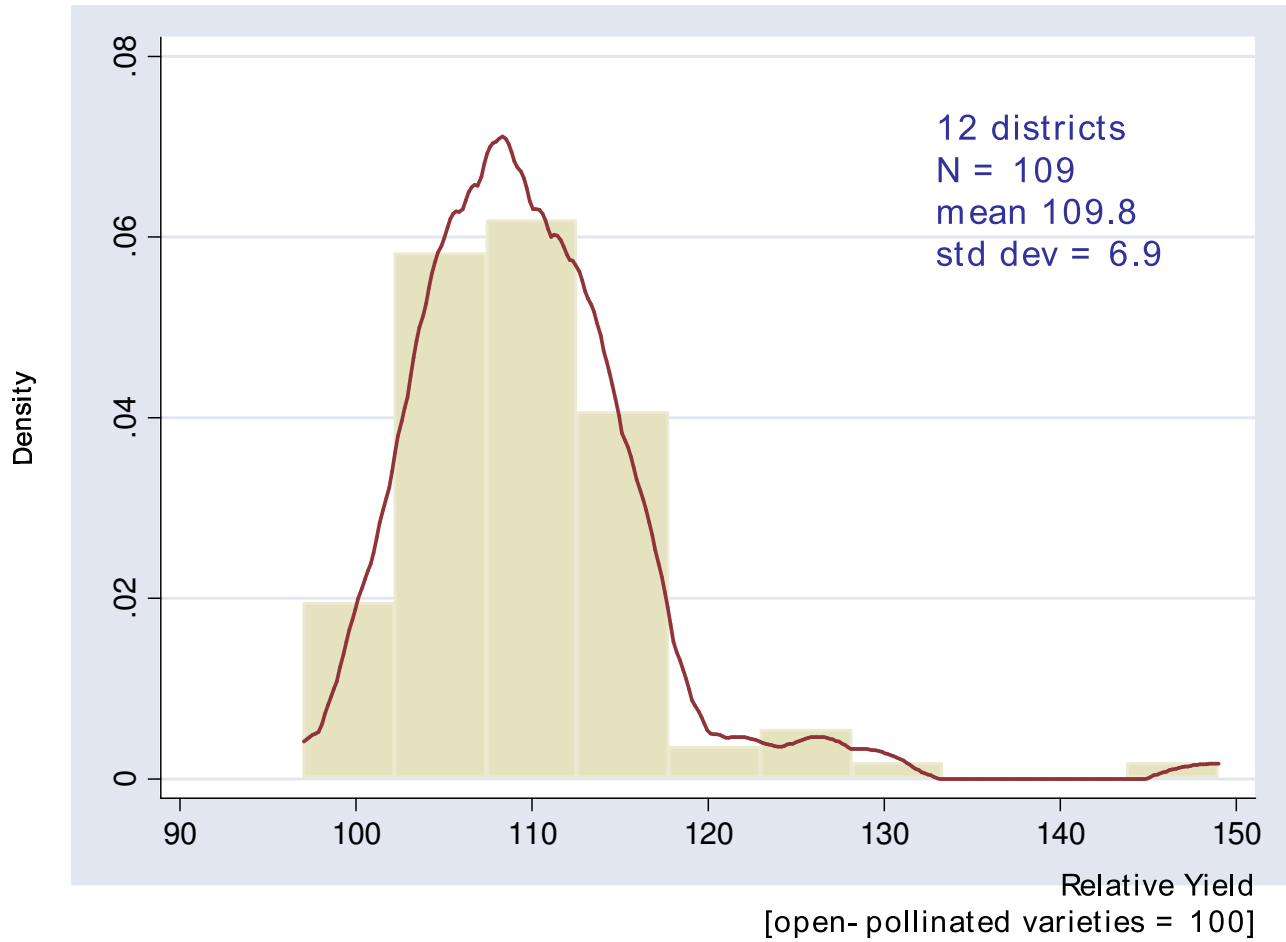
District	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
1	117	109	110	109	114	116	115	114	112	111	107	107	115	110	108
2	105	117	120	124	113	*	102	110	101	109	118	109	109	115	122
3	97	103	109	114	111	106	102	107	119	106	126	112	118	114	+
4	116	105	110	110	116	112	107	129	111	121	*	108	114	113	121
5	107	111	108	108	114	113	108	128	108	107	129	114	112	107	127
6	105	110	103	103	105	109	106	116	106	103	117	108	117	116	115
7	105	103	114	109	113	107	112	109	*	122	*	150	131	120	121
10	111	102	111	108	102	105	102	109	*	122	140	133	120	141	132
8	104	98	115	109	124	108	110	114	149	113	127	109	112	112	116
11	103	114	108	112	111	106	111	114	149	113	154	114	134	115	#
9	105	102	114	114	106	107	106	105	115	105	149	114	106	110	122
12	110	107	104	106	103	102	100	105	115	105	141	118	115	108	118
	* Crop lost -- drought														
	+ Poor crop -- "not calculated"														
	# Crop abandoned -- wire worms														

Note: For 1933-1935 districts 10, 11, and 12 were combined with districts 7, 8, and 9 respectively.

Source: Marcus S. Zuber and Joe L. Robinson, "The 1940 Iowa Corn Yield Test," *Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin* P19 NS, February 1941:589.



Density Estimate of Relative Hybrid Yield  
1926-1934 Iowa Corn Yield Tests



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**FIGURE 6**

# Cost of Corn Seed, Average 1935-39

Hybrid Seed	\$8.77 per bushel
Open-Pollinated	\$2.35 per bushel
Field corn	\$0.656 per bushel

Hybrid seed in 1924 sold for \$56 per bushel.

Edward May, President of the May Seed Company, "The Development of Hybrid Corn in Iowa," I. E. Melhus, editor, *Plant Research in the Tropics*, [Iowa] Agricultural Experiment Station, December 1949: 514.

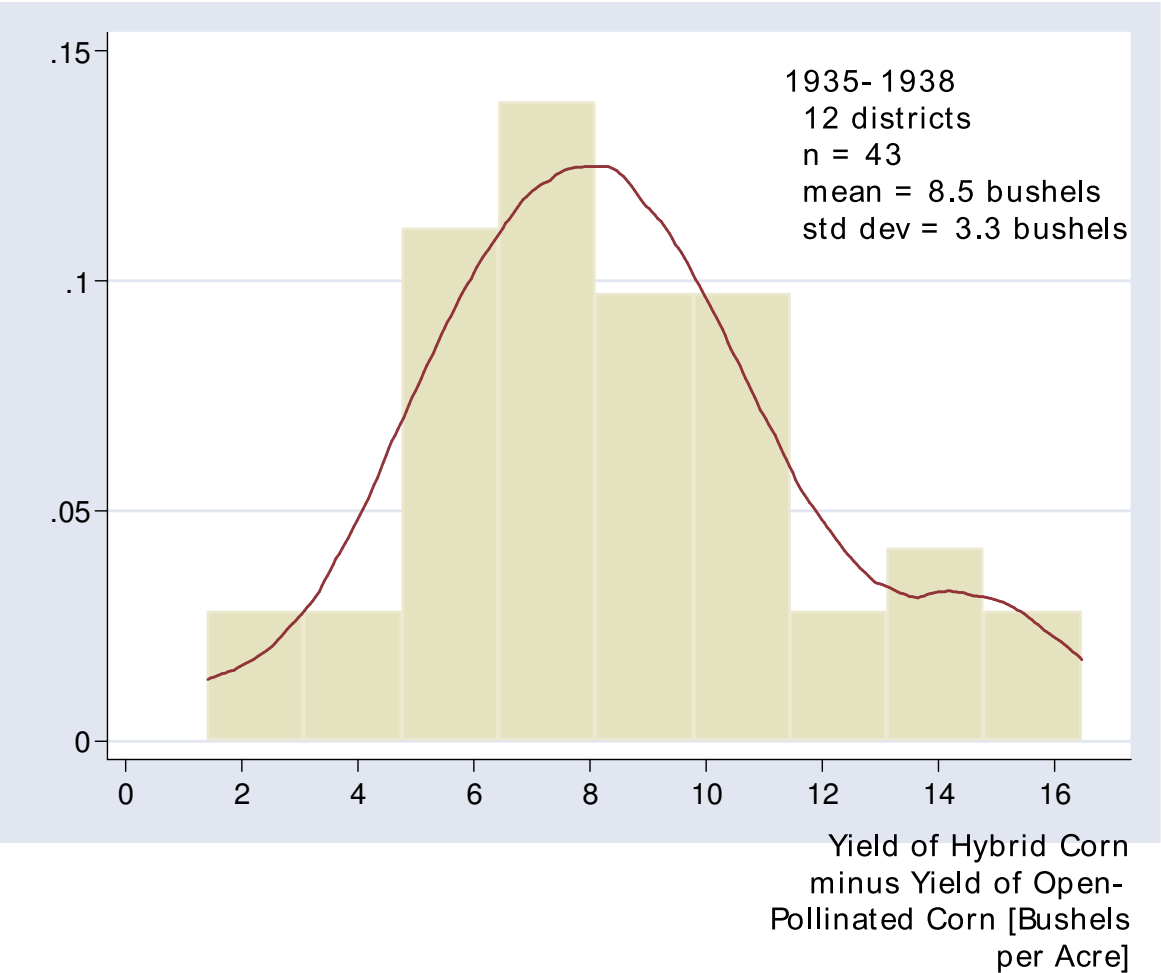
Difference \$6.42 ~ Value of 10 bushels of field corn

Seeding Rate [acres/bushel]	Required Gain to warrant adoption [bushels]	
>1	10	drilled corn 19 <sup>th</sup> century, <i>Rural Carolinian</i> ( 1870)
1.3-1.7	7.7-5.9	3'4" spaced hills 4-3 kernels to a hill; ICYT 1953
1.5-2.2	4.5-6.5	12-13K plants per acre, 4-3 kernels to a hill typical of southern Minnesota 1930s Cardwell (1982)
2.0	5	typical of central Iowa mid-1930s Duvick (1992)
2.9	3.4	current rule of thumb: (28K kernels per acre; 80K kernels per bushel)
7	1.4	Ryan and Gross, Iowa (1950) {no cite}

Sources: "Field Seeds Retail Prices," Agricultural Marketing Service, Crop Reporting Board, Agricultural Prices, June 1957.  
 Susan Carter *et al.*, editors, *Historical Statistics of the United States*, Cambridge University Press, 2006, Series Da697.  
 "Facts and Figures for Farmers," *Rural Carolinian* 1(January 1870), p. 211.  
 Joe L. Robinson and Charles D. Hutchcroft, "The 1953 Iowa Corn Yield Test," *[Iowa] Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin* P116, February 1954, pp. 7-8.  
 Donald N. Duvick, "Genetic Contributions to Advances in Yield of U.S. Maize," *Maydica* 37 (1992): p. 71  
 Bryce Ryan and Neal Gross, "Acceptance and Diffusion of Hybrid Corn Seed in Two Iowa Communities," *[Iowa] Agricultural Experiment Station Research Bulletin* 372, January 1950, p. 668.

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**FIGURE 7**

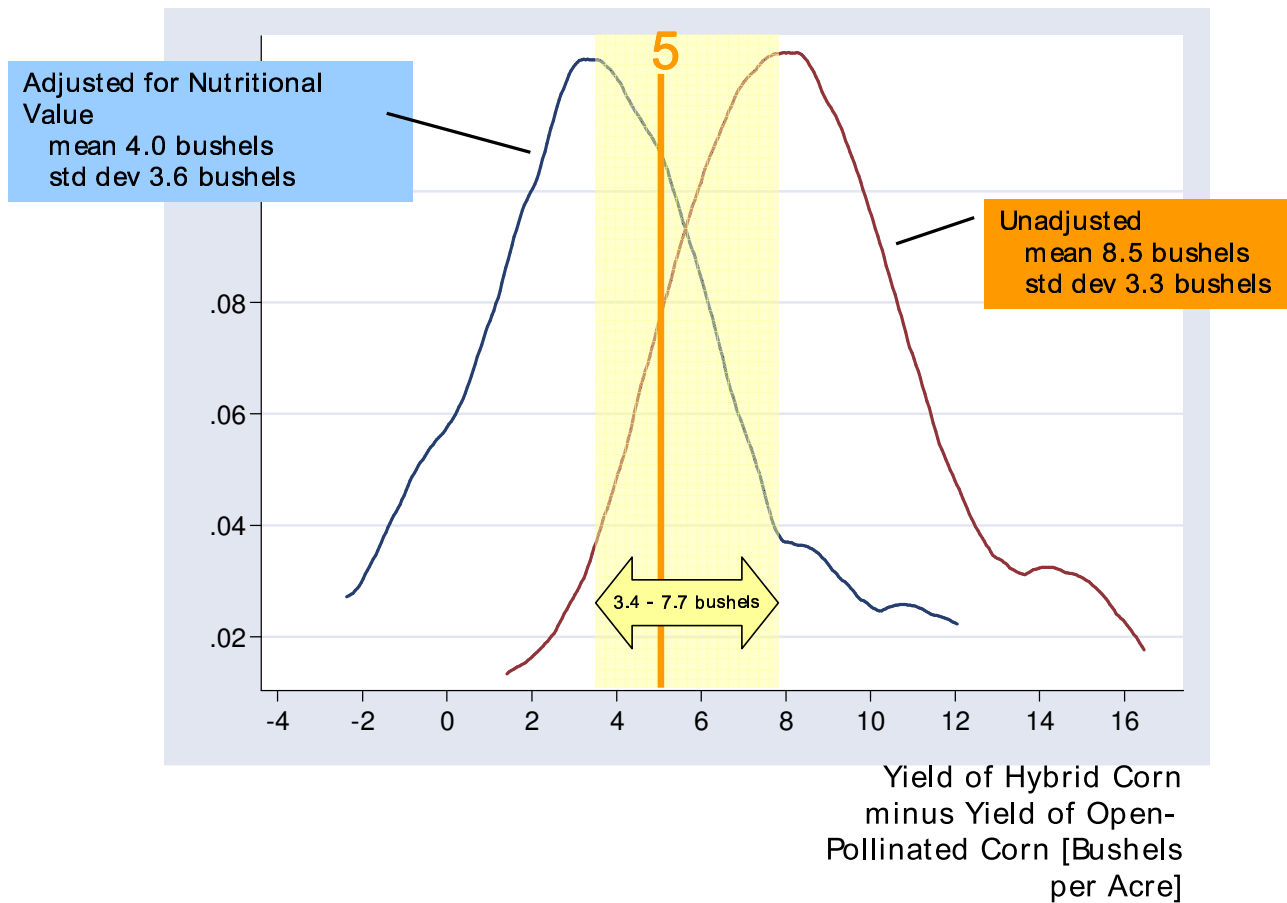
Expected Gain [Bushels per Acre] from Using Hybrid Seed, 1935- 1938  
Iowa Corn Yield Tests



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**FIGURE 8**



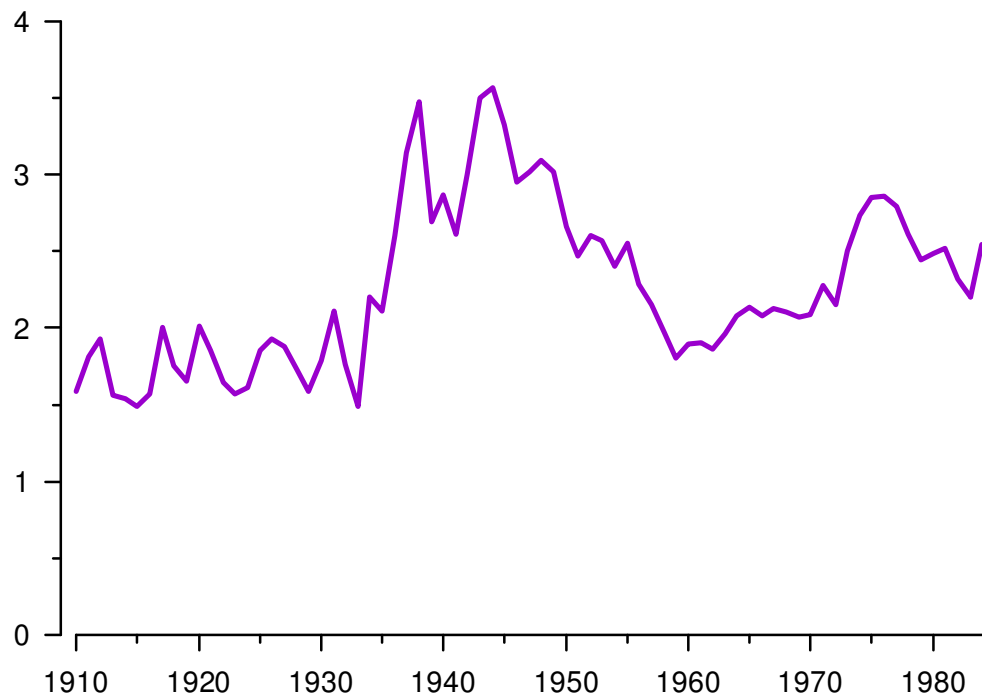
## Expected Gain from Using Hybrid Seed, 1935- 1938 Iowa Corn Yield Tests



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**FIGURE 9**

# Seed Costs as a Percentage of All Production Costs

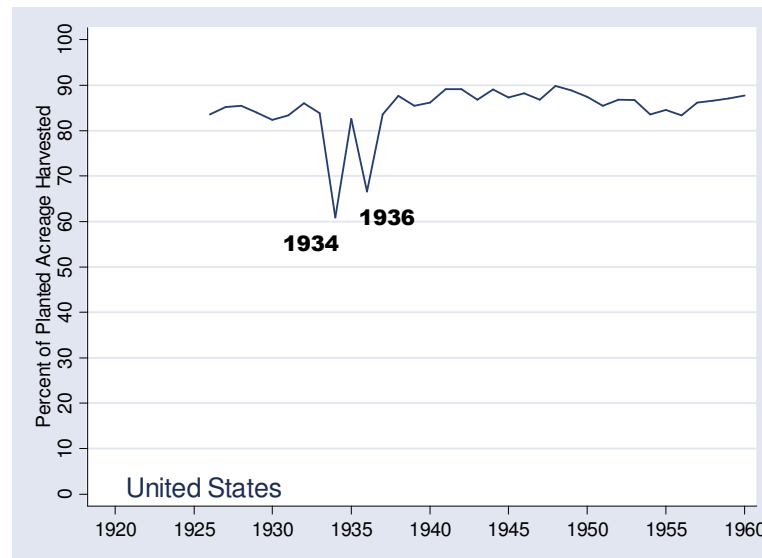
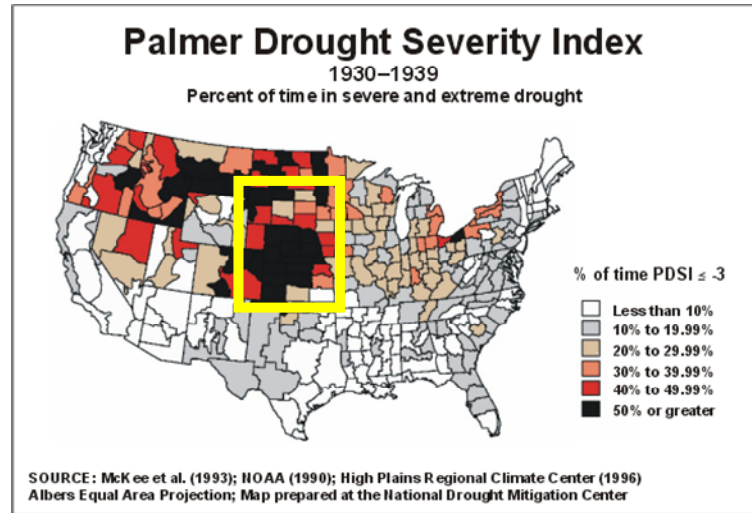
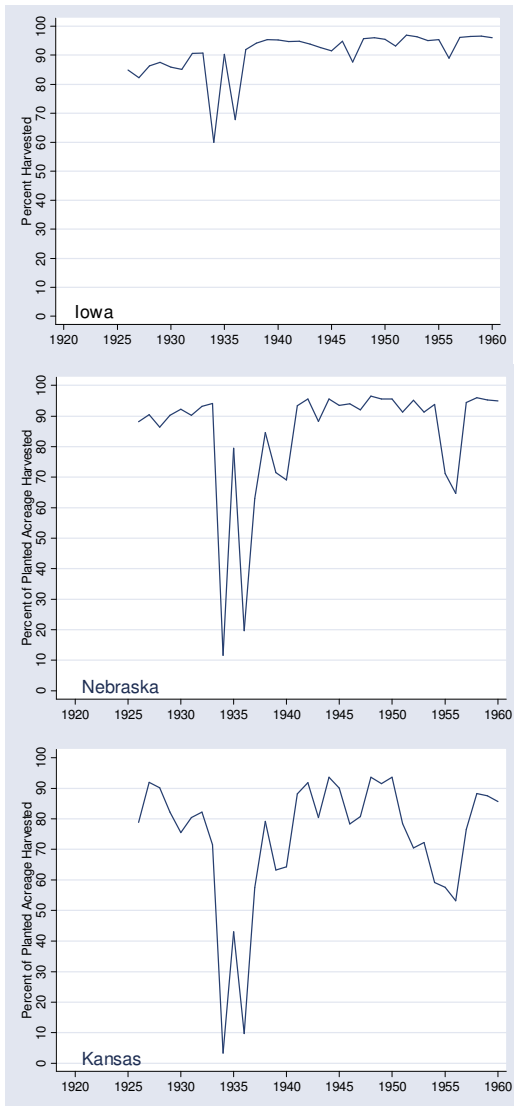
U.S. Agriculture, 1910- 1984



Gary Lucier, Agnes Chesley, and Mary Ahearn, "Farm Income Data: A Historical Perspective," *USDA Statistical Bulletin* No 740: 22-25.

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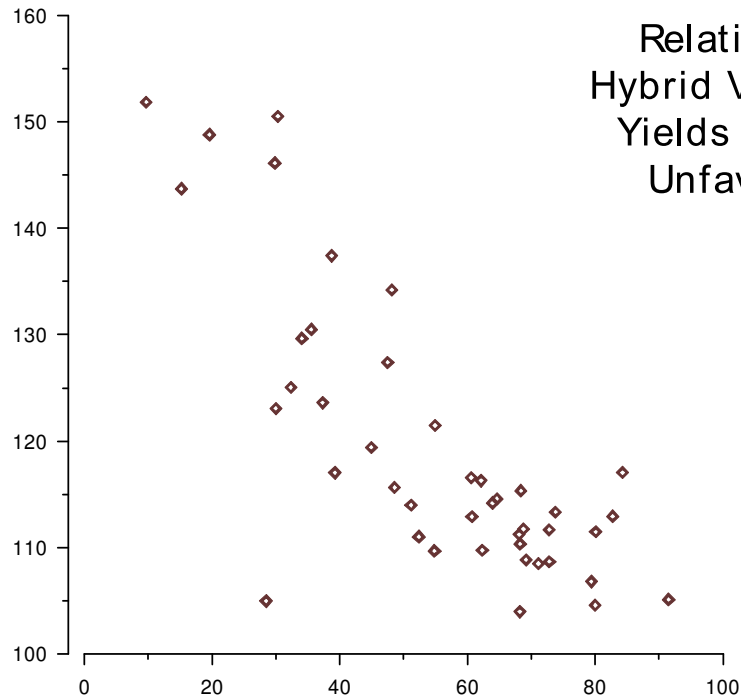
**FIGURE 10**



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**FIGURE 11**

Relative Yield  
of Hybrid Corn

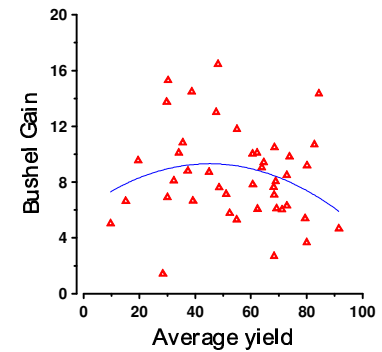
[open-  
pollinated  
varieties =  
100]



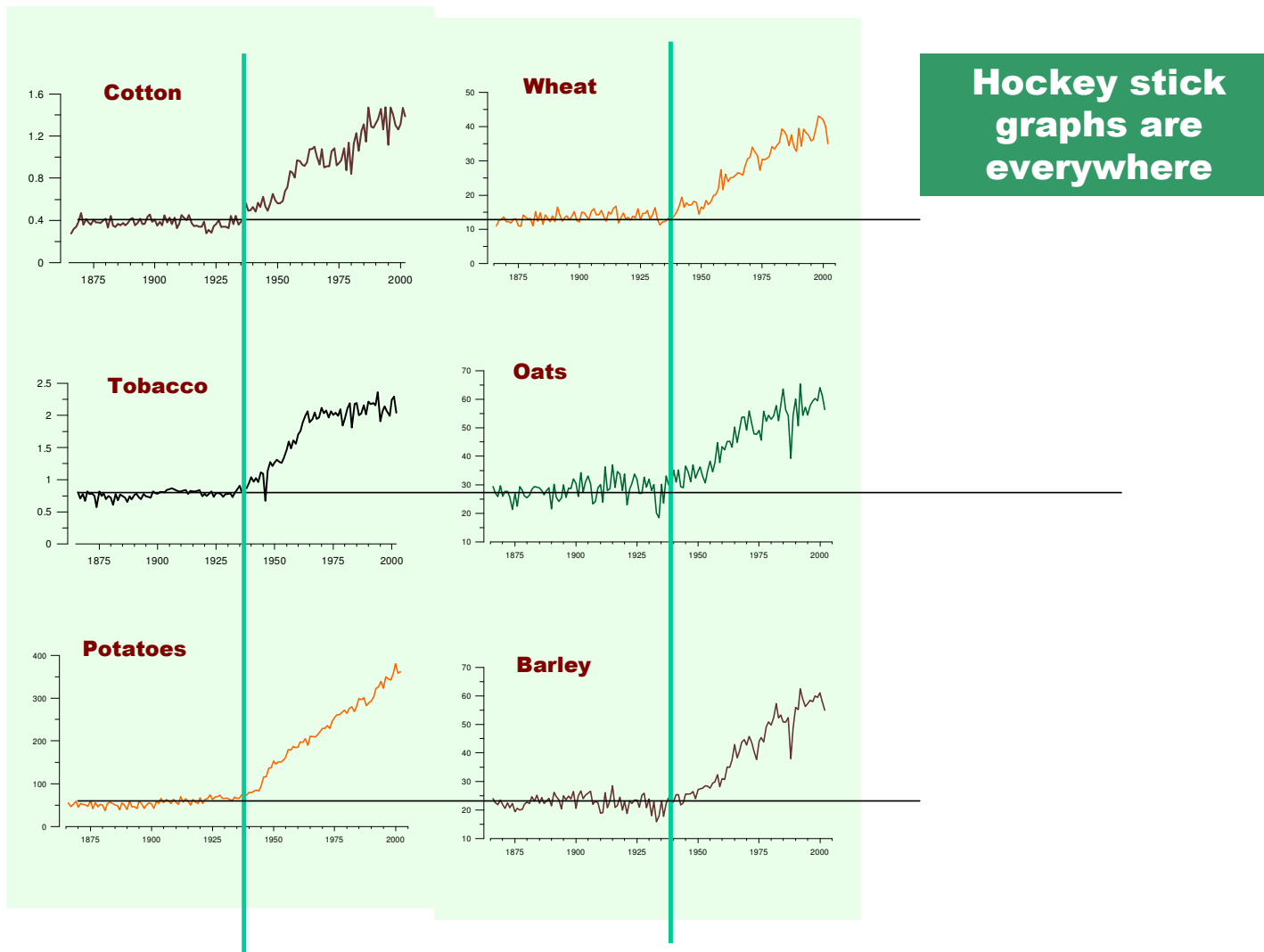
Relative Advantage of  
Hybrid Varieties Best When  
Yields are Depressed by  
Unfavorable Weather

1935-1938  
n = 43

Average Yield of Open-Pollinated Corn  
Bushels per Acre

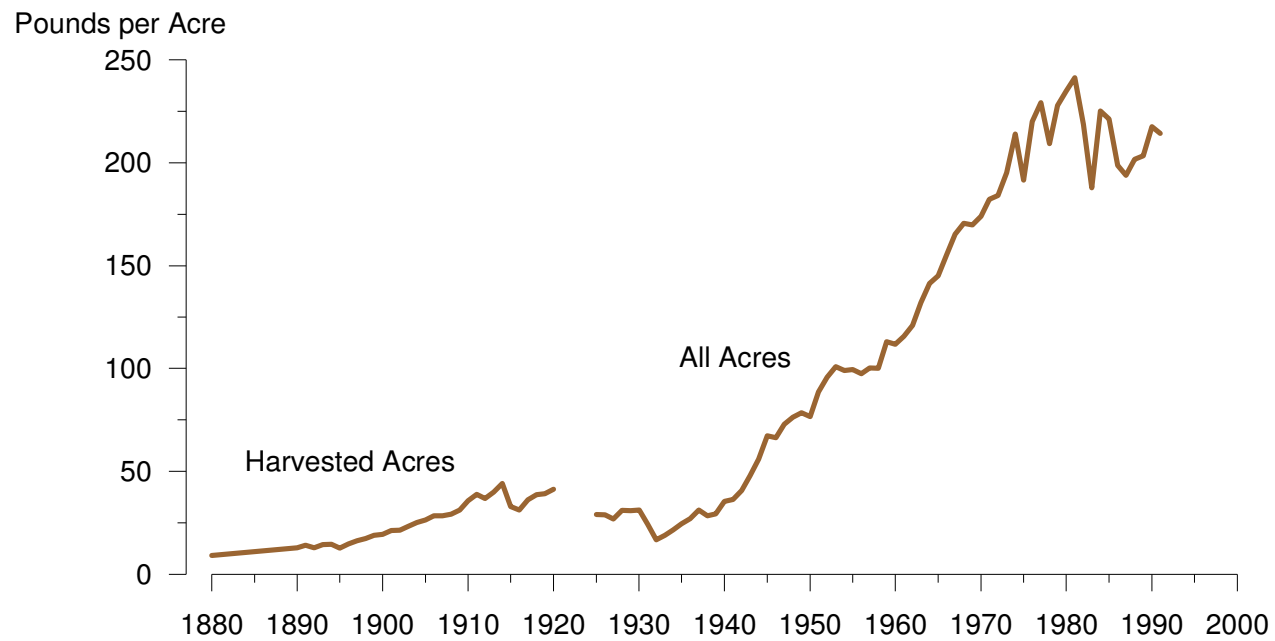


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**FIGURE 12**



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**FIGURE 13**

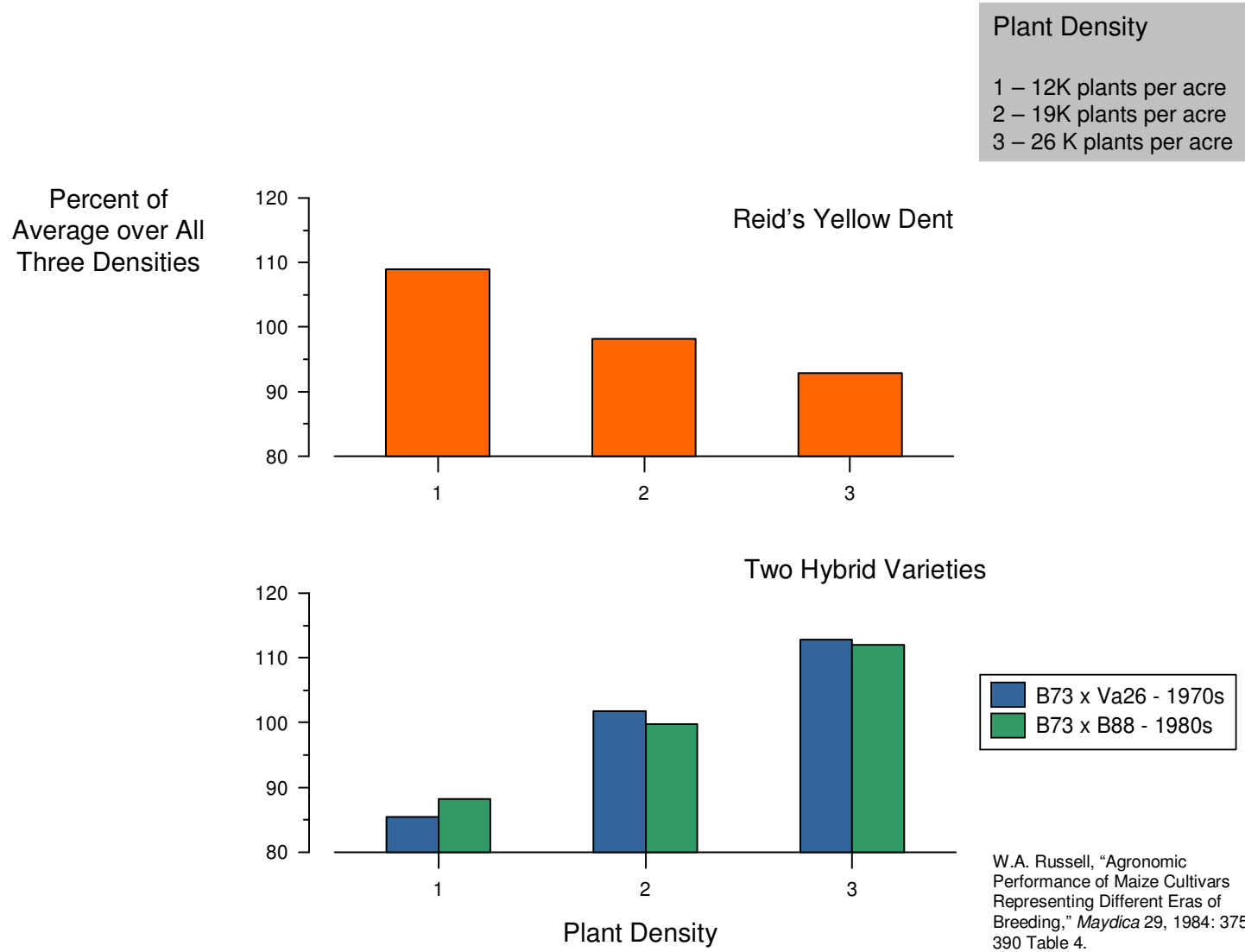
## Commercial Fertilizer Use per Acre of Cropland



Source: Susan Carter *et al*, editors, *Historical Statistics of the United States*, Cambridge University Press, 2006, Series Da20 and Da644

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**FIGURE 14**



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**FIGURE 15**