

3. Crazy Top of Corn

Following a heavy rain May 25-26 a portion of the corn disease nursery was submerged for several hours. At tasselling time Crazy Top symptoms were apparent in cultures throughout the flooded area and close counts were made. At the end of the season the following tabulation summarized the occurrence of the outbreak.

Table 1. The distribution of Crazy Top corn plants among open pollinated varieties, single crosses, dwarf lines and selfed cultures of maize at State College, Pa., 1953.

	Crosses with						Open pollinated	Dwarf lines	Selfs	Total
	Mo 940*	Tr*	38-11*	Hy*	L317*	Other				
No. rows	6	15	35	45	46	47	111	28	97	430
Rows with Crazy Top	2	2	1	16	8	4	21	5	4	63
% rows Crazy Top	33.3	13.3	2.8	35.5	17.3	8.5	18.9	17.1	4.1	14.6
No. Crazy Top Plants	3	2	1	32	14	4	23	6	11	97

*recovered lines of corn belt origin

Crazy Top of corn is thought to be caused by *Sclerospora macrospora*, an obligate parasite. Because the organism cannot be cultured, the evidence so far remains circumstantial. It seems highly unlikely that swimming or floating spores in a pond of approximately one acre in area should become associated exclusively with certain randomly planted cultures, unless those particular cultures were exclusively susceptible. It is therefore suggested that susceptibility to this disease has a heritable basis.