Golden Harvest’s Agronomy in Action sites offer a first-hand look at the hybrids and varieties as they are being grown.

Each of the 36 sites across the Midwest provides different corn and/or soybean demonstrations in varying types of conditions, similar to what the nearby farmers will experience.

Bob Lawless, an agronomist for Golden Harvest (www.GoldenHarvestSeeds.com), provided Seed Today with a tour Aug. 24 of the company’s Agronomy in Action site near Clinton, IL.

According to Lawless, various types of trials are performed at the site, including pest management, root depth, planting date, and seed care.

During the visit, Lawless was examining corn rootworm activity. He says looking at the roots allows agronomists to see what is happening in the plot.

“The best time to dig is right after pollination,” Lawless says.

Lawless recommends farmers use hybrids with Agrisure Duracade trait stacks as part of their management strategy to control corn rootworm. The pests can cause severe damage to corn, he says.

Golden Harvest Agronomist Bob Lawless examines corn rootworm activity, which he says is hard to see without pressure washing the roots, on Aug. 24 near Clinton, IL. (Chris Lusvardi photos)

Corn roots are set out on a trailer bed prior to being pressure washed.

Corn roots are placed on the side of a trailer after being pressure washed to look for signs of corn rootworm activity.

Golden Harvest Rolls Out E-Luminate Digital Seed Selection Tool

In August, Golden Harvest announced the rollout of a tool that will allow its seed advisors to have field-level discussions with customers about selecting hybrids.

E-Luminate is an exclusive digital offering that the company says draws upon extensive agronomic data to help farmers make more informed seed selection decisions.

“High-quality seed is only part of the equation; product placement is crucial for realizing optimal yield,” says Bruce Battles, head of seeds, agronomy. “A number of factors can make seed selection a real challenge, but E-Luminate simplifies the equation.”

E-Luminate enables Golden Harvest Seed Advisors to quickly assess field characteristics and choose the best products and management practices on a field-by-field basis, Battles says. It uses GIS-based mapping for immediate assessment of soil characteristics, he adds.

Additionally, Battles explains details specific to weed, disease, and insect pressures can be considered to generate recommendations for Golden Harvest seed that performs consistently for each field condition.

With E-Luminate, Battles says seed recommendations reflect actual performance comparisons across varieties, by year and region, powered by the precision of statistical analysis.

Chris Lusvardi, editor

Corn is grown on Golden Harvest test plots near Clinton, IL. (Golden Harvest photo)