

**Table 7.** Expected date of black layer (physiological maturity) based on location, planting date and hybrid maturity.

Kentucky Location	Planting Date	Different Hybrid Maturities (GDD) <sup>1</sup>			50% Chance of Last Freeze (32° F) Spring Date	50% Chance of 1st Freeze (32° F) Fall Date
		2400	2700	3000		
		Approximate Relative Maturity (day)				
		111	114	118		
		Date to Reach Black Layer <sup>2</sup>				
<b>Mayfield</b>	15-Mar <sup>3</sup>	23-Jul	3-Aug	15-Aug	13-Apr	21-Oct
	1-Apr	28-Jul	9-Aug	21-Aug		
	15-Apr	1-Aug	13-Aug	25-Aug		
	1-May	12-Aug	24-Aug	5-Sep		
	15-May	20-Aug	1-Sep	16-Sep		
	1-Jun	4-Sep	18-Sep	7-Oct		
<b>Bowling Green</b>	15-Mar	25-Jul	6-Aug	19-Aug	5-Apr	26-Oct
	1-Apr	1-Aug	13-Aug	25-Aug		
	15-Apr	5-Aug	17-Aug	30-Aug		
	1-May	16-Aug	29-Aug	13-Sep		
	15-May	25-Aug	8-Sep	26-Sep		
	1-Jun	4-Sep	27-Sep	26-Oct		
<b>Henderson</b>	15-Mar	31-Jul	13-Aug	26-Aug	9-Apr	24-Oct
	1-Apr	5-Aug	18-Aug	1-Sep		
	15-Apr	9-Aug	22-Aug	5-Sep		
	1-May	19-Aug	2-Sep	19-Sep		
	15-May	28-Aug	12-Sep	3-Oct		
	1-Jun	12-Sep	3-Oct	15-Nov		
<b>Elizabethtown</b>	15-Mar	30-Jul	11-Aug	24-Aug	18-Apr	20-Oct
	1-Apr	4-Aug	16-Aug	29-Aug		
	15-Apr	7-Aug	19-Aug	2-Sep		
	1-May	17-Aug	30-Aug	14-Sep		
	15-May	25-Aug	8-Sep	26-Sep		
	1-Jun	9-Sep	27-Sep	26-Oct		
<b>Somerset</b>	15-Mar	29-Jul	10-Aug	23-Aug	18-Apr	29-Oct
	1-Apr	4-Aug	17-Aug	30-Aug		
	15-Apr	8-Aug	20-Aug	4-Sep		
	1-May	19-Aug	2-Sep	18-Sep		
	15-May	28-Aug	12-Sep	3-Oct		
	1-Jun	12-Sep	3-Oct	15-Nov		
<b>Lexington</b>	15-Mar	31-Jul	13-Aug	26-Sep	11-Apr	27-Oct
	1-Apr	6-Aug	18-Aug	1-Sep		
	15-Apr	9-Aug	21-Aug	5-Sep		
	1-May	19-Aug	2-Sep	19-Sep		
	15-May	28-Aug	12-Sep	3-Oct		
	1-Jun	12-Sep	3-Oct	15-Nov		
<b>Jackson</b>	15-Mar	30-Jul	11-Aug	25-Aug	8-Apr	27-Oct
	1-Apr	5-Aug	18-Aug	31-Aug		
	15-Apr	9-Aug	22-Aug	5-Sep		
	1-May	19-Aug	2-Sep	19-Sep		
	15-May	28-Aug	12-Sep	3-Oct		
	1-Jun	12-Sep	3-Oct	15-Nov		

<sup>1</sup>A hybrid with a 2,400 GDD requirement is roughly a 111-day relative maturity, while a hybrid with a 3,000 GDD requirement is roughly a 118-day relative maturity hybrid. Consult the seed company literature for specific GDD requirements for each hybrid.

<sup>2</sup>Date to reach black layer based on the average growing degree day from 2011 through 2016 (University of Kentucky Ag Weather Data Center).

<sup>3</sup>Dates in red are at risk for freeze damage after planting (spring) or prior to blacklayer (fall).