

HIGHLY UNUSUAL PLANT RECOVERY AT 3 DAYS IN DUTCH MAIZE CROP CIRCLE

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July 16, 2014 -Etten Leur Maize
circle on Day-1



7/16/14: 7m. maize circle Robbert was “guided to.” When he and Roy got near circle both men became very dizzy and Roy’s cell phone acted “weird.” Photo: Roy Boschman

JULY 19 - 2.5m tall maize plants almost
upright 3 DAYS post-flattening



7/19/14 – 3 days after maize circle was flattened the thick stalks are back up, now about 45 cm. shorter than rest of field. Photo: Ronald Sikking

According to Canadian Agronomist and Crop Consultant Mervyn Erb (Agri-Solve Inc.) and retired University of Wisconsin at River Falls Professor of Agronomy & Plant Sciences, Dr. Lou(is) Greub, the curvature of the stalks in this Dutch circle on Day 1 and the fact that the plants (particularly those along the edges of the circle and in its center) were flattened at their bases--with many of their roots exposed--makes the reorientation of the plants at all, **and particularly in only 3 days**, difficult to attribute to phototropism (the natural response of healthy plants to grow upward toward the source of light) alone.

Also, the maize had reached the pollination stage, when vertical growth stops so the plants' energy can be directed into the development of the cobs.



7/16/14: Roy returned to field after daylight to take photos, only hours after circle formed—the 2.5m-tall corn stalks were laid quite flat. Photo: Roy Boschman



7/16/14: Maize stalks were flattened **and curved** into 7m-diameter circle, with **no bruising or scrape marks** on plants. Photo: Roy Boschman



July 16: Maize plants along the edges of circle are clearly flattened at their bases.
Photo: Roy Boschman



July 16: The roots of many of the flattened stalks were exposed on Day 1.
Photo: Roy Boschman



July 16: Tassels were present on day 1, when maize was flattened, at which growth-stage vertical growth ceases so that cobs can develop. Photo: Roy Boschman

Because Ronald Sikking, who takes many of the Dutch circle aerial photos with his drone, was not available on Day 1, he and Roy returned to the field on July 19th—3 days later—to get aerial shots. To their surprise both the video and digital cameras on the drone produced no photos at all and the men had to re-enter the field to see what was going on.

They were amazed to see that the circle plants had almost completely re-oriented themselves, something that has never—to my knowledge—been observed before in a maize circle. Photo below was taken from the ground.



7/19/14: Very unusual 2.5m tall, tasseled maize plant recovered only 3 days after circle flattened at Etten Leur, Holland. Photo: Ronald Sikking



July 19: Curving maize plants at Day 3.
Photos: Ronald Sikking

Because both Roy and Robbert had reported significant dizziness when they approached the circle the night of its discovery on July 16th and because Roy noted that his cell phone was “acting weird” (the LED display was flickering), and since seasoned circle researchers have regularly experienced electronic devices such as cameras and cell phones not working properly in new crop circles, I wondered if this might be what was going on with Ronald’s video and digital cameras on July 19th.

Ronald (who is not, particularly, a circle enthusiast and who was unaware that electronic device malfunction is commonly reported at new circles) felt that it was his “carelessness” in making the proper “settings” which resulted in both cameras failing to work—not a failure due to remnant circle “energies.” But this maize circle was the last one of the three he visited on the 19th—and he was able to get the aerial shots of the other two formations with no problem.

After hearing about the recovery in this circle I asked Roy to go back to the field and document the reorientation of the plants as carefully as possible. This is what the circle looked like 5 days after it had been flattened.

July 22 - 5 days after being flat to ground, 2,5m-tall, tasseled maize nearly 100% recovered



July 22: All the plants in the center, which had also been flattened at their roots, have almost fully recovered. Only some stalks around the perimeter have not.

Photo: Roy Boschman

Both of our professional plant consultants, Agronomist Mervyn Erb and Plant Physiologist Dr. Lou Greub, expressed surprise at the degree of “half-moon” curvature--without any breakage--on day 1 in the thick, 2.5m tall maize stalks. As anyone who has ever tried to bend maize at this growth-stage knows, the stalks will not bend without breakage—above or below the stem nodes. Erb, who has been a professional crop consultant for many years and who works with all varieties of maize daily, said he could not imagine the what force was necessary to create this curvature.



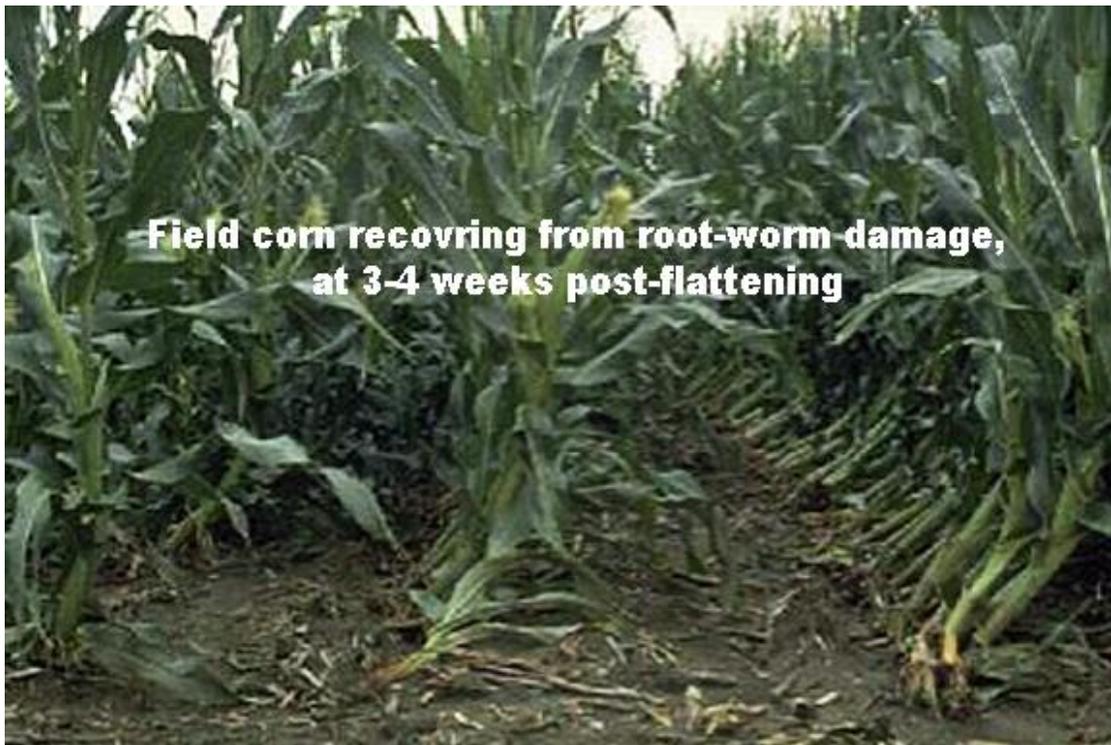
July 16: Day 1 & the well-developed maize plants are clearly curved to create the circle. Photo: Roy Boschman

Dr. Greub noted that, particularly around the edges and in the center of the circle, the stalks were flattened so that the pivot points were below ground—and that in these relatively large plants with heavy stems at the base, there would have been a lot of weight on the pivot point just below where the stalk emerges from the ground—and yet there were no abrasion marks or stem bruising indicating the application of any mechanical pressure.



July 22: No bruising or marks to indicate a mechanical force causing pivot points below the soil surface. Photo: Roy Boschman

When the maize tassels emerge there is at most 1 week of vertical growth still possible, after which the plants' energy then goes into development of the cob. Since tassels were present on Day 1, it is possible that phototropism could account for **some** reorientation, but both agricultural experts doubted that the amount of recovery first seen--on Day 3--could be due to natural processes.

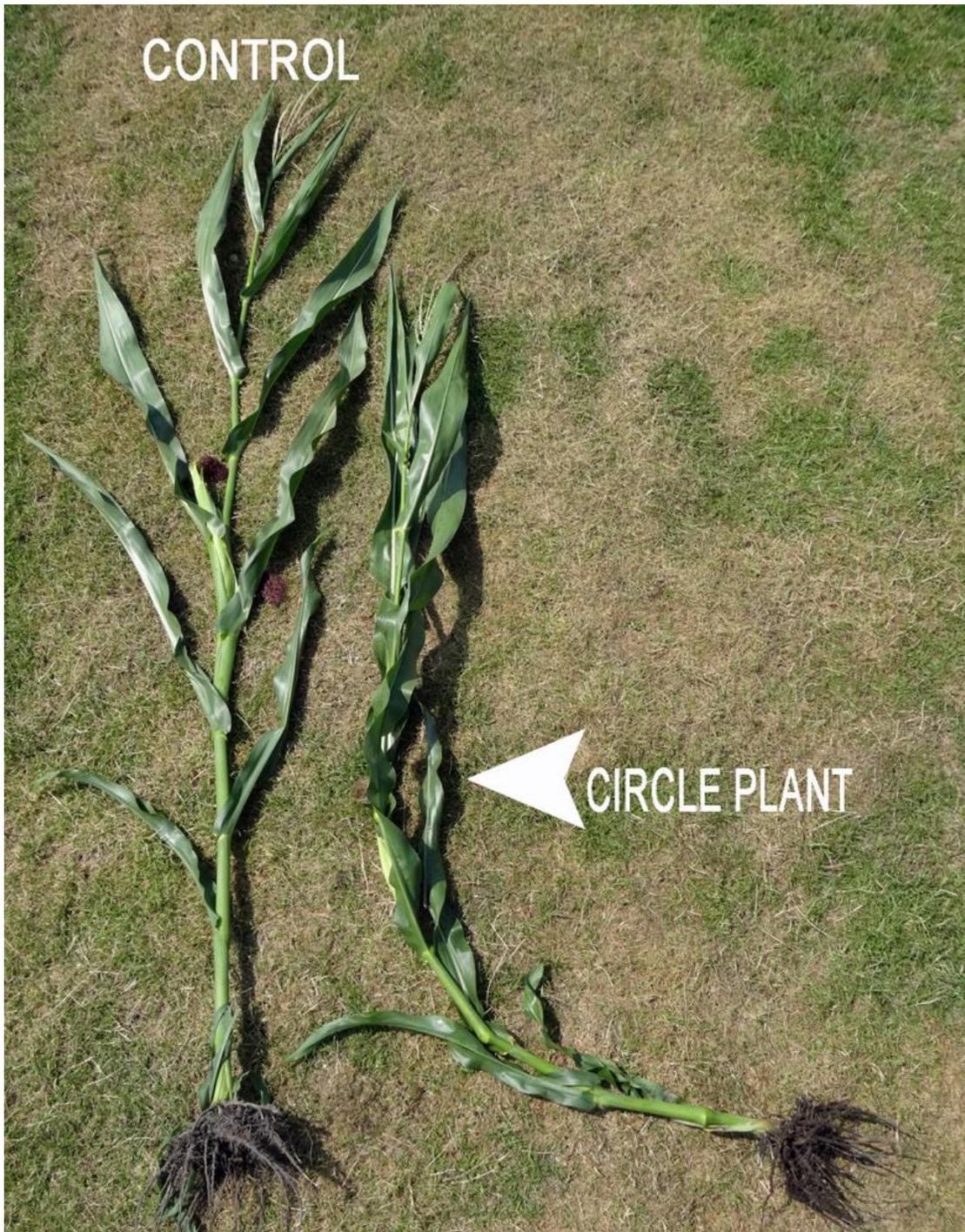


Top photo: Roy Boschman; bottom shot of 3-4 week recovery from root-worm damage is a file photo.

Close-up photos of sample stalks and controls taken from the Ettten Leur circle on July 22nd clearly show bending of the stalks at the nodes—but since the plants were already bent in a “half-moon” arc on Day 1, it is not clear how much increased cell-division of the underside edge of the previously-flattened stem nodes is due to subsequent phototropism or occurred when the circle plants were originally flattened. The idea that the plants’ recovery is due to phototropic response alone is not thought likely.



July 22: Day 5 photos show some node bending, probably partially related to phototropic response, but also to the original circle-making forces. Photos: Roy Boschman.



On day 5 the control plants measured 2.55m in height and the previously-flattened samples 2.10m, a difference of 45 cm. Again the curvature in the circle plants is obvious. Photo: Roy Boschman

Since neither of our plant professionals had ever seen this sort of recovery in maize at this advanced growth-stage and height, both suggested that a control study would be the only way they could absolutely rule out phototropism as the sole cause of this maize circle's plant reorientation. But, since neither of them had any idea how to re-create the curvature originally present in this circles' plants at this growth-stage--without breaking or splitting the stalks—neither could envision a method for carrying out a reliable “control” study.

To sum up, neither Mr. Erb nor Dr. Greub felt it was likely that phototropism alone could account for all of the recovery present at 3 days in this maize circle. And neither could understand the obvious curvature of the flattened maize stalks on Day 1 nor saw any indication that mechanical pressure was involved in the creation of the circle.



July 22: At 5 days the July 16th Etten Leur circle is almost invisible.
Photo: Roy Boschman

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