Agronomic characteristics of dark tobacco varieties may vary between years and locations. The following descriptions are based on observations and results from replicated variety trials conducted under different environments across western Kentucky and Tennessee over the past several years. Yield potentials listed are an average across several trials and seasons and actual yields may vary from those listed. The disease resistance indicated can be expected if disease pressure is present.

**Little Crittenden** is typically an air-cured variety but also performs well as a fire-cured variety. It has medium to late maturity with good yield potential (3000 lbs/ A) and excellent cured leaf quality. Little Crittenden has a semi-erect growth habit with long leaves that have considerable crinkle and fairly coarse texture. It has very good curing characteristics similar to the Madoles. Little Crittenden has no disease resistance.

**Narrowleaf Madole** is still the most popular dark tobacco variety grown. It can be used as a fire-cured or air-cured variety and has medium maturity with excellent yield (3200 lbs/A) and cured leaf quality. It is known for its good curability characteristics. Narrowleaf Madole has a very prostrate growth habit with long, drooping leaves and a smooth leaf texture. Narrowleaf Madole can typically remain in the field longer after topping than any other variety before harvesting. However, it is somewhat more prone to leaf breakage at harvest due to its prostrate nature. It generally does not perform well when transplanted early (prior to May 15th) when cool, damp conditions commonly occur. Narrowleaf Madole has no disease resistance.

**TR Madole** is typically used as a fire-cured variety. It has medium maturity and excellent yield (3300 lbs/A) and cured leaf quality characteristics. It has a very prostrate growth habit and is an easy-curing variety similar to Narrowleaf Madole. TR Madole has very characteristic rounded top leaves with a smooth, open textured leaf surface which makes it well suited to cigar-wrapper style markets. TR Madole has no disease resistance.

**KY 160** is an air-cured variety with medium maturity and relatively low yield (2600 lbs/A) but excellent cured leaf quality. It has a semi-erect growth habit with long, narrow leaves and smooth leaf texture. KY 160 has high resistance to tobacco mosaic virus.

**KY 171** is an air-cured or fire-cured variety with medium maturity, and very good yield (3100 lbs/A) and cured leaf quality. It has a semi-erect growth habit with coarse leaf texture and very good curing characteristics similar to the Madoles. KY 171 has high resistance to black root rot and tobacco mosaic virus, medium resistance to Fusarium wilt, and performs better than many other varieties when transplanted early (prior to May 15th).

**DF 911** is typically used as a fire-cured variety. It has medium maturity and excellent yield (3300 lbs/A). DF 911 has a prostrate growth habit somewhat similar to Madoles but has a larger stalk size than most other dark tobacco varieties. Cured leaf quality is typically lower than most other varieties, as the leaf face tends to cure to a dark brown while the back of the leaf cures to a light tan. DF 911 has high resistance to black root rot, wildfire, and tobacco mosaic virus.

**DT 508** is typically used as a fire-cured variety and has very good yield (3200 lbs/A) and quality characteristics. It has a prostrate growth habit with medium maturity. DT 508 has medium resistance to race 0 and race 1 black shank and medium resistance to Fusarium wilt.

**DT 518** is typically used as a fire-cured variety. Similar to DT 508, it has very good yield (3200 lbs/A) and quality characteristics, prostrate growth habit, and medium maturity. DT 518 has medium resistance to black root rot and medium resistance to race 0 and 1 black shank.

**DT 592** is typically used as a fire-cured variety. It has good yield (3000 lbs/A) and quality characteristics and has a growth habit similar to Narrowleaf Madole. It has a larger stalk than most other varieties, with stalk size similar to DF 911. Like Narrowleaf Madole, it is somewhat more prone to leaf breakage at harvest than other varieties. DT 592 has medium resistance to black root rot and medium resistance to black shank race 0 and race 1.

**DT 538LC** is typically used as a fire-cured variety. It has excellent yield (3400 lbs/A) and very good cured leaf quality. It has medium maturity with a semi-erect growth habit and fairly coarse leaf texture. It has good black shank resistance similar to KT D4LC (medium resistance to race 0 and race 1).

**VA 309** can be used as an air-cured or fire-cured variety. It has early to medium maturity with good yield (3000 lbs/A) and cured leaf quality characteristics. VA 309 has a semi-erect growth habit with a fairly smooth leaf texture. It has low-medium resistance to race 0 and race 1 black shank, and medium resistance to black root rot.

**VA 359** can be used as an air-cured or fire-cured variety. It has medium maturity and good yield (3100 lbs/A). It has an erect growth habit with leaves lighter in color than most other varieties. VA 359 has excellent cured leaf quality characteristics and cures to a light brown color. VA 359 has low resistance to race 0 and race 1 black shank.

**TN D950** is a fire-cured variety with early maturity and a very prostrate growth habit. It has excellent yield (3200 lbs/A) but typically produces only fair cured leaf quality. Leaves of TN D950 have a fairly smooth texture and are darker green, containing more chlorophyll (green leaf pigment) than most other dark tobacco varieties and therefore may require earlier firing and more firing to help drive green out of the cured leaf. TN D950 has medium resistance to race 0 and race 1 black shank (slightly lower than DT 538LC, KT D4LC, and KT D6LC), and high resistance to black root rot, tobacco mosaic virus, and wildfire.
KT D4LC was developed as a fire-cured variety but has also performed relatively well as an air-cured variety. KT D4LC has the highest yield of any dark tobacco variety currently available (3600 lbs/A). It has a very erect growth habit with medium maturity and leaves light in color similar to VA 359. Spacing between leaves is closer than most other varieties and it typically will have 3 to 4 more leaves than other varieties topped to the same height on the stalk. It has a coarse leaf texture with cured leaf quality that is usually lower than most other varieties but better than TN D950. It has good resistance to race 0 and race 1 black shank (similar to DT 538LC).

KT D6LC is a hybrid of KT D4LC x TN D950. It is a fire-cured variety with medium maturity, semi-erect growth habit, and fairly smooth leaf texture. KT D6LC has very good yield (3200 lbs/A) and higher cured leaf quality than KT D4LC or TN D950. It has good resistance to race 0 and race 1 black shank (medium, but slightly lower than KT D4LC or DT 538LC), and high resistance to black root rot, tobacco mosaic virus, and wildfire.

PD 312 LC is a hybrid of Narrowleaf Madole x KY 171 developed by Rickard Seed. It has medium-late maturity, excellent yield (3200 lbs/A), and very good cured leaf quality. PD 312 LC can be used as a fire-cured or air-cured variety. It has high resistance to black root rot and tobacco mosaic virus and medium resistance to Fusarium wilt, but no black shank resistance.