recent studies have revived interest in the study of varietal blends both from a practical and a theoretical viewpoint. Practical advantages of mixtures of different varieties of the same species might include: (a) a synergistic effect or a cooperation between genotypes, such as observed by Roy (11) in a few varieties of rice (Oryza sativa L.) and by Gustafson (3) between certain genotypes in barley (Hordeum vulgare L.); (b) a stabilizing effect on yield, as noted by Probst (10) in soybeans (Glycine max L.), Suneson (14) in barley, and Allard (1) in lima beans (Phaseolus lunatus L.); (c) a reduction in disease, as pointed out by Suneson (15) and Jensen (4).

Although corn is an extremely important crop and offers many advantages as an experimental material, very little work has been reported on the performance of hybrid mixtures. Stringfield (13) planted 42 pairs of corn hybrids separately and as two-hybrid mixtures in three tests. He failed to show any significant yield advantage in planting the mixtures. Pendleton (9) observed a yield reduction in mixing normal and dwarf corn.