Biodiesel

Can I use B20 in my current diesel engine?

In general, biodiesel can be used in existing engines and fuel injection equipment with little impact to operating performance. However, check with the OEM's recommendations. Most OEM's have approved up to 5% biodiesel with a small percentage approving up to 100% if the fuel meets certain specs.

Will biodiesel perform as well as diesel?

In testing, B20 has shown similar fuel consumption, horsepower, and torque as conventional diesel fuel. Biodiesel has a higher cetane number and lubricity than U.S. diesel fuel higher and it has a BTU content between #1 and #2 diesel fuel.

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Will biodiesel perform well in cold weather?

"Biodiesel will gel in very cold temperatures, just as the common #2 diesel does. Although pure biodiesel has a higher cloud point than #2 diesel fuel, typical blends of 20% biodiesel are managed with the same fuel management techniques as #2 diesel. Blends of 5% biodiesel and less have virtually no impact on cold flow." (source: National Biodiesel Board)

Will biodiesel cause filters to plug?

Biodiesel has a solvent effect, which may release deposits accumulated on tank walls and pipes from previous diesel fuel use. With higher blends of biodiesel, the release of deposits may clog filters initially and precautions should be taken to replace fuel filters until the petroleum build-up is eliminated. This issue is less prevalent with B20 blends, and there is no evidence that lower-blend levels such as B2 have caused filters to plug.

Are there long term affects on the engine if I use biodiesel?

In general, biodiesel used in pure form can soften and degrade certain types of elastomers and natural rubber compounds over time. Using high percent blends can impact fuel system components (primarily fuel hoses and fuel pump seals) that contain elastomer compounds incompatible with biodiesel, although the effect is lessened as the biodiesel blend level is decreased.

Net Energy gain or loss

According to GREET's calculations, the *fossil* energy input per unit of ethanol is lower—0.78 million British thermal units (Btu) of fossil energy consumed for each 1 million Btu of ethanol delivered—compared to 1.23 million Btu of fossil energy consumed for each 1 million Btu of gasoline delivered. Source- Ethanol, the complete energy lifecycle picture, Wang, ANL

Energy content of E85 (summer blend) is 27% less than unleaded