

Figure S1. Hierarchical clustering of 135 GRNs (45 expression dataset * 3 methods). Each of the three

regression-based method (RF - random forest, ET - extra trees, XGB - gradient boosted) was used to build a network for each RNA-Seq dataset. Pairwise distance between networks was determined by taking the top 100,000 TF-target predictions from each network and calculating the proportion of shared (common) predictions (using 'dist()' function in R with additional argument 'method=binary'). Hierarchical clustering was then performed based on the cross-network pairwise distance matrix using "ward.D" option.

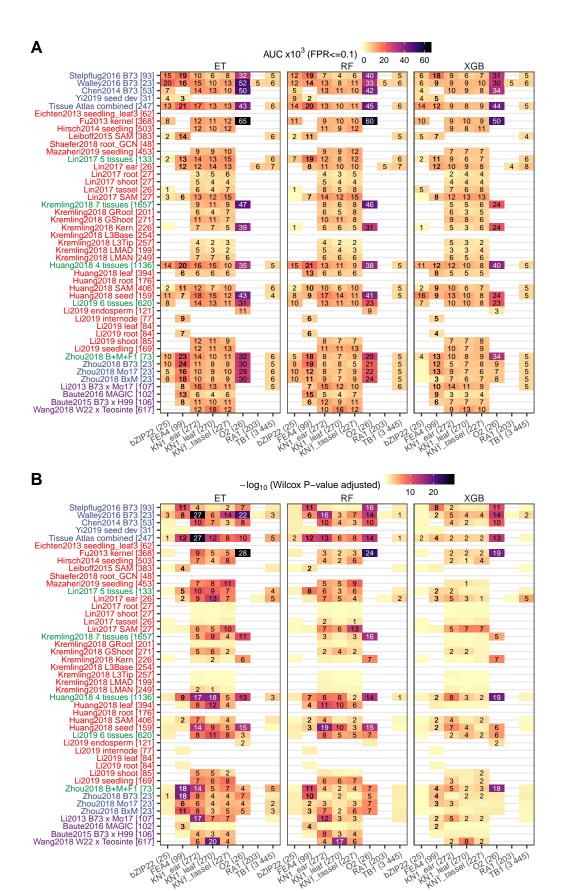


Figure S2. Comparison of GRNs built with different methods using supports from known direct targets of published TF studies in maize. Direct targets of 7 TFs were obtained from literature and treated as ground truth to evaluate: (A) Area under receiver-operating characteristic curve (AUROC) evaluated for each GRN (until an False Positive Rate of 0.1 is reached) and (B) Wilcox rank test using the predicted (TF-target) interaction scores between the group of true targets and non-targets. Numbers in each cell show the actual AUROC values / test P-value (-log10 transformed) with blank cells standing for "not significant" (P > 0.05). White cells stand for missing data where the TF being evaluated is not expressed in the corresponding GRN. Each GRN was built using three regression methods: RF (random forest), ET (extra trees) and XGB (gradient boosting).

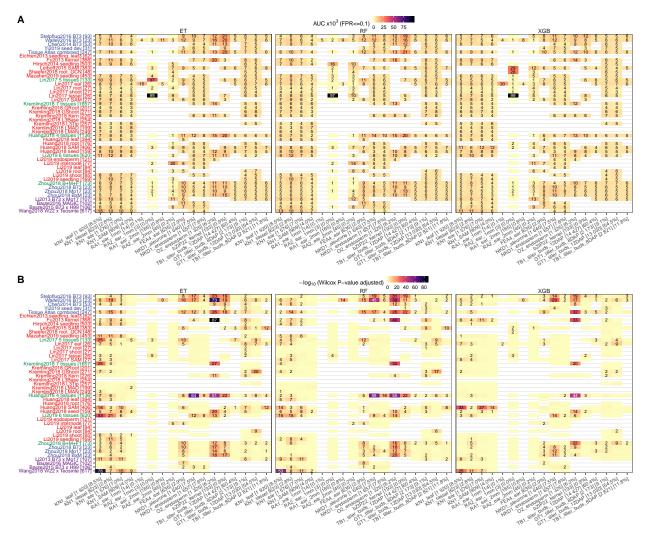


Figure S3. Comparison of GRNs built with different methods using supports from TF knockout mutant RNA-Seq data. Differentially expressed genes between each one of the 21 TF knockout mutants and the wildtype were identified using DESeq2 (p-value < 0.01) and treated as ground truth to evaluate: (A) Area under receiver-operating characteristic curve (AUROC) evaluated for each GRN (until an False Positive Rate of 0.1 is reached) and (B) Wilcox rank test using the predicted (TF-target) interaction scores between the group of true targets and non-targets. Numbers in each cell show the actual AUROC values / test P-value (-log10 transformed) with blank cells standing for "not significant" (P > 0.05). White cells stand for missing data where the TF being evaluated is not expressed in the corresponding GRN. Each GRN was built using three regression methods: RF (random forest), ET (extra trees) and XGB (gradient boosting).

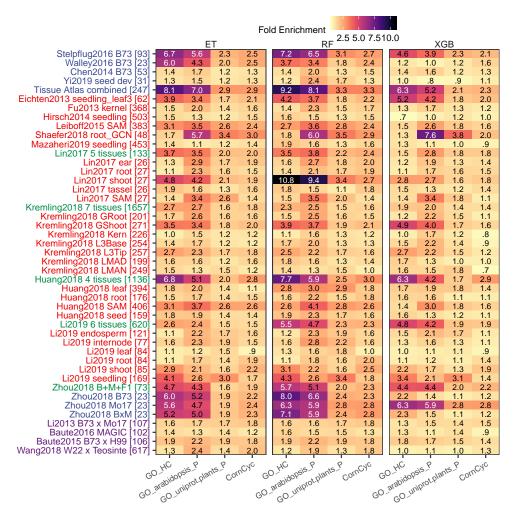
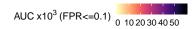


Figure S4. Comparison of GRNs built with different methods according to enrichment of functional annotations (Gene Ontology, CornCyc, etc). For each network only the top 100,000 predicted TF-target associations were taken. Fold enrichment is calculated as the observed number of shared GO/CornCyc terms (by targets regulated by a common TF) divided by the expected number of shared annotation terms (determined by permutation). The names for each of the networks are color coded to indicate B73 developmental surveys (blue), genotype surveys (red), meta-networks (green) or previously generated GRNs (teal). Each GRN was built using three regression methods: RF (random forest), ET (extra trees) and XGB (gradient boosting).



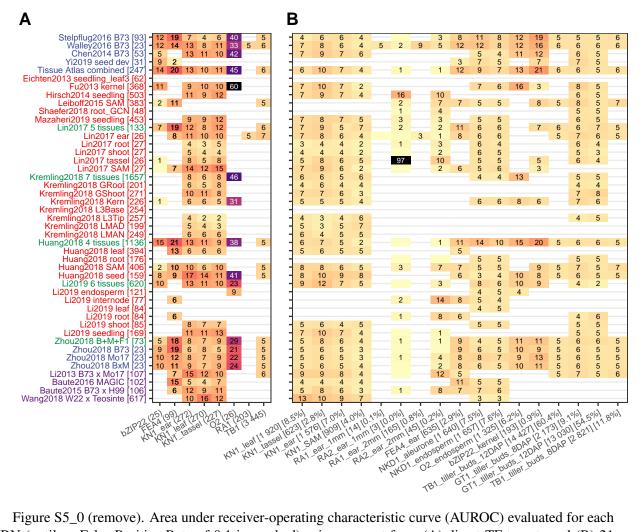


Figure S5_0 (remove). Area under receiver-operating characteristic curve (AUROC) evaluated for each GRN (until an False Positive Rate of 0.1 is reached) using support from (A) direct TF targets and (B) 21 maize TF knockout mutants as ground truth. Differentially expressed genes between each TF knockout mutant and the wildtype were identified using DESeq2 (p-value < 0.01) and treated as ground truth to evaluate GRN performance. Numbers in each cell show the actual AUROC values with white cells indicating missing data (the TF being filtered from the expression matrix due to invariable expression).

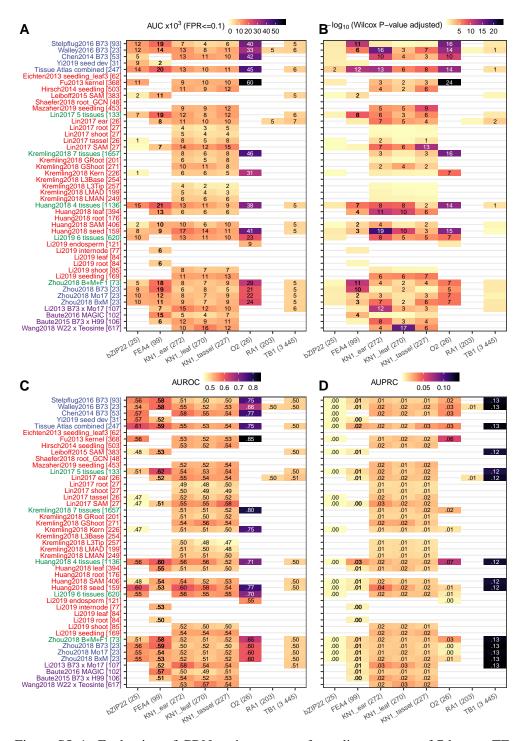


Figure S5_1. Evaluation of GRNs using support from direct targets of 7 known TFs. (A) Area under receiver-operating characteristic curve (AUROC) until an False Positive Rate of 0.1 is reached; (B) Wilcox rank test performed using the predicted (TF-target) interaction scores between the group of true targets (DEGs) and non-targets (non-DEGs); (C) Area under receiver-operating characteristic curve (AUROC) and (D) Area under precision-recall curve (AUPRC).

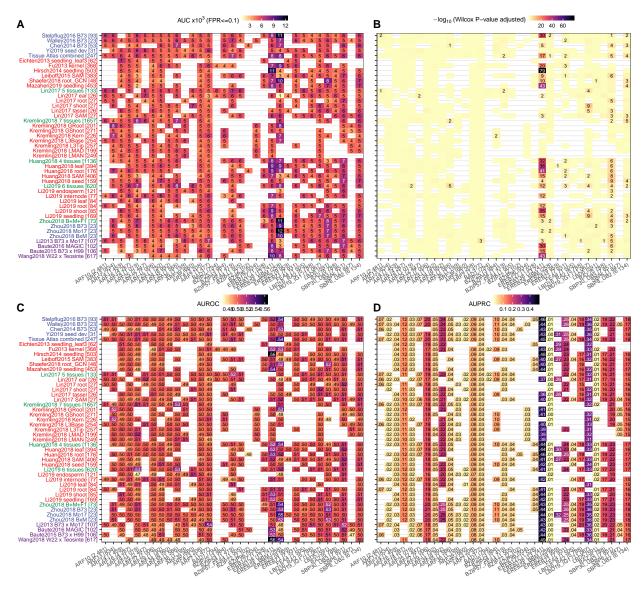


Figure S5_2. Evaluation of GRNs using support from 31 maize TF DAP-Seq datasets. (A) Area under receiver-operating characteristic curve (AUROC) until an False Positive Rate of 0.1 is reached; (B) Wilcox rank test performed using the predicted (TF-target) interaction scores between the group of true targets (DEGs) and non-targets (non-DEGs); (C) Area under receiver-operating characteristic curve (AUROC) and (D) Area under precision-recall curve (AUPRC).

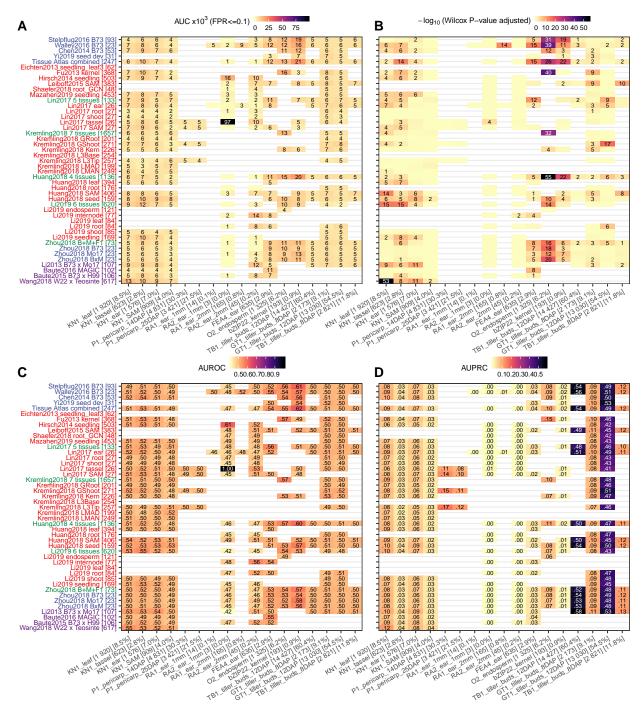


Figure S5_3. Evaluation of GRNs using support from 21 maize TF knockout mutants RNA-Seq datasets. (A) Area under receiver-operating characteristic curve (AUROC) until an False Positive Rate of 0.1 is reached; (B) Wilcox rank test performed using the predicted (TF-target) interaction scores between the group of true targets (DEGs) and non-targets (non-DEGs); (C) Area under receiver-operating characteristic curve (AUROC) and (D) Area under precision-recall curve (AUPRC).

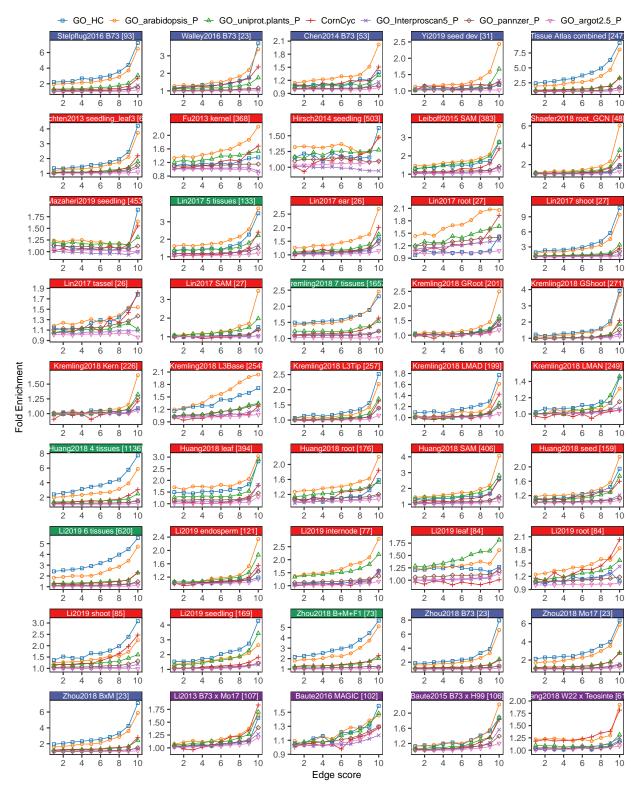


Figure S6. Enrichment of co-annotated GO/CornCyc terms in co-regulated network targets. For each network the top 1 million predicted TF-target associations were binned to 10 bins and assessed for enrichment of GO/CornCyc functional annotation. Fold enrichment is calculated as the observed number of shared GO/CornCyc terms (by targets regulated by a common TF) divided by the expected number of shared anno-

tation terms (determined by permutation). The names for each of the networks are color coded to indicate B73 developmental surveys (blue), genotype surveys (red), meta-networks (green) or previously generated GRNs (teal). A total of six sources of GO annotation were used: GO_HC (high quality hand-curated terms transferred from maize AGP_v3 annotation), GO_arabidopsis, GO_uniprot.plants, GO_Interproscan5, GO_pannzer and GO_argot2.5.

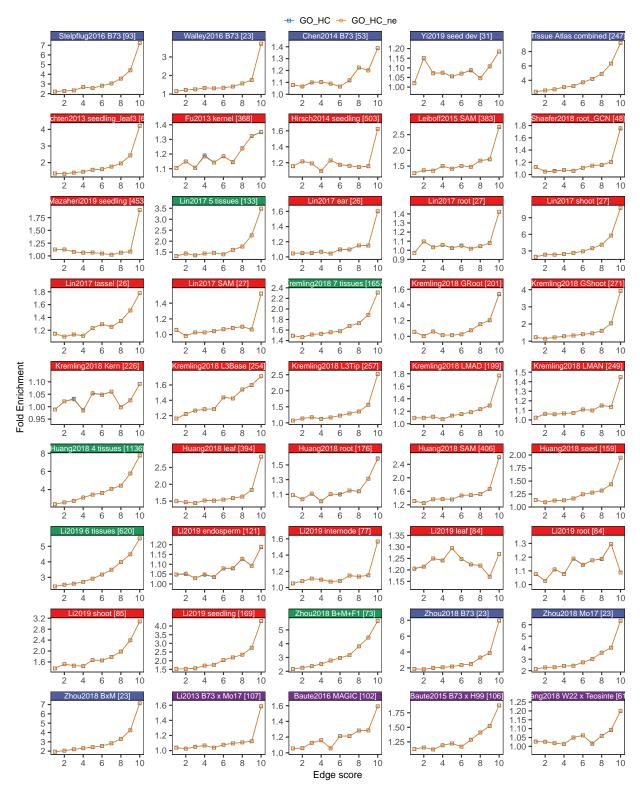


Figure S7. Enrichment of co-annotated GO terms in co-regulated network targets. Two sources of GO annotation were used: GO_HC (1,623 high quality hand-curated terms transferred from maize AGP_v3 annotation), GO_HC_ne (1,537 high quality GO terms after removing 86 expression-based terms from the GO_HC set).

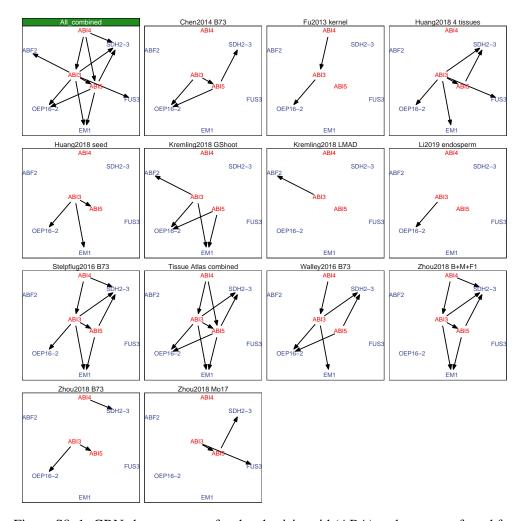


Figure S8_1. GRN shows support for the abscisic acid (ABA) pathway transferred from Arabidopsis.

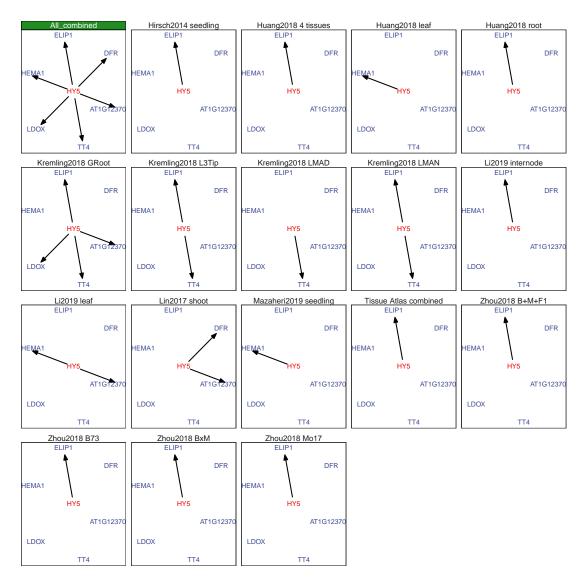


Figure S8_2. GRN shows suport for the HY5 (Elongated Hypocotyl 5) targets transferred from Arabidopsis.

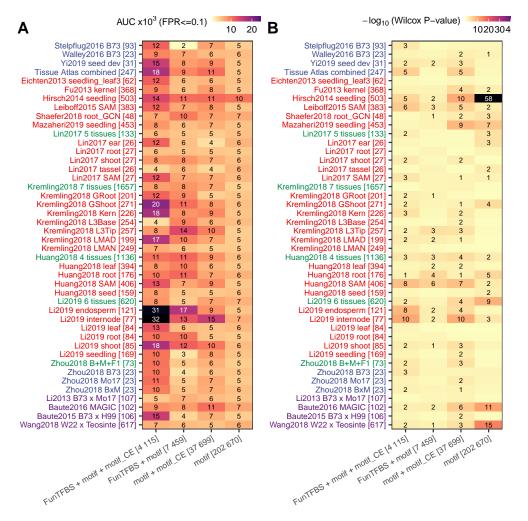


Figure S9. Evaluation (AUROC and Wilcox P-value) of constructed GRNs using four sets of predicted TF-target interactions based on TF-binding site motif, conserved element of TFBS motif or FunTFBS. There are 202,670 "motif"-based predictions, 37,699 predictions based on motif and cross-species conservation, 7,459 predictions based on motif and FunTFBS as well as 4,115 predictions based on all three evidences.

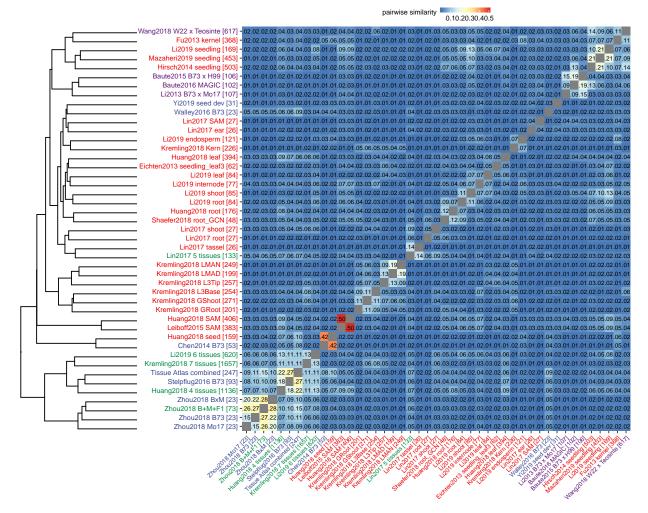


Figure S10. Hierarchical clustering of 45 GRNs. Pairwise distance between networks was determined by taking the top 100,000 TF-target predictions from each network and calculating the proportion of shared (common) predictions (using 'dist()' function in R with additional argument 'method=binary'). Hierarchical clustering was then performed based on the cross-network pairwise distance matrix using "ward.D" method.

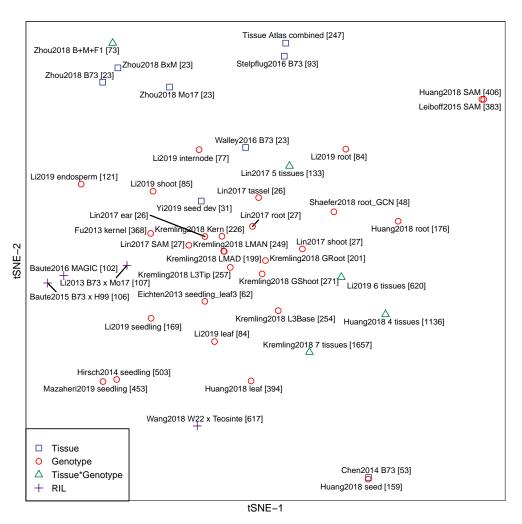


Figure S11. T-SNE clustering of 45 GRNs. Top 500,000 TF-target predictions were extracted from each network to perform t-SNE clustering using parameter "perplexing=9, permutation=2000".



Figure S12. Hierarchical clustering of 98 Gene Ontology (Uniprot.Plants, level 6) terms using fold enrichment in different GRNs. Only GO terms enriched (i.e., P-value < 0.05 and fold change > 1, top 100k edges taken) in at least 3 out of the 44 networks were used for clustering. Insignificant enrichment (p-value < 0.05) was treated as missing data and shown as white space in the figure. Fold enrichment is determined as described in Figure 2.

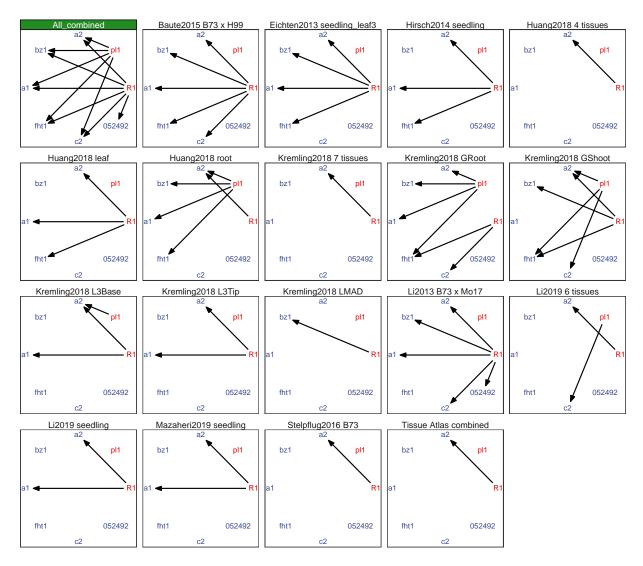


Figure S13_1. GRN shows support for the anthocyanin biosynthesis pathway.

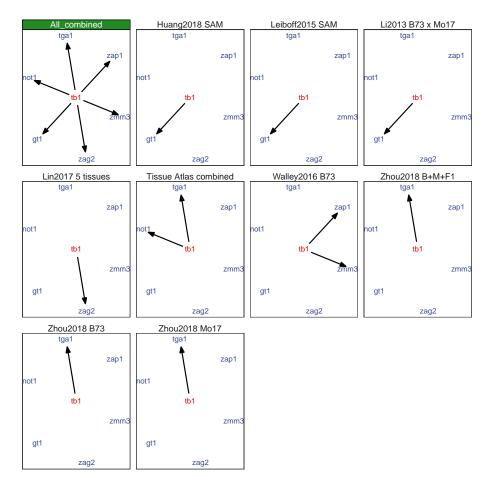


Figure S13_2. GRN shows support for the teosinte branched1 (tb1)-mediated pathway.

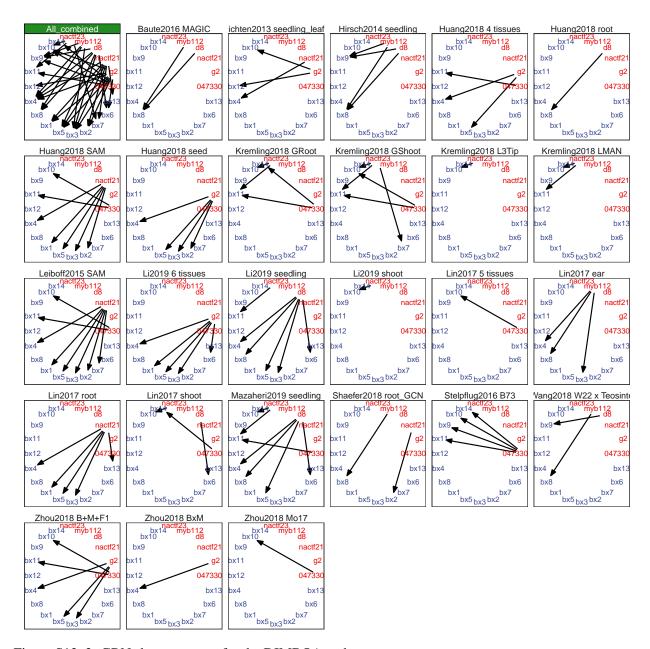


Figure S13_3. GRN shows support for the DIMBOA pathway.

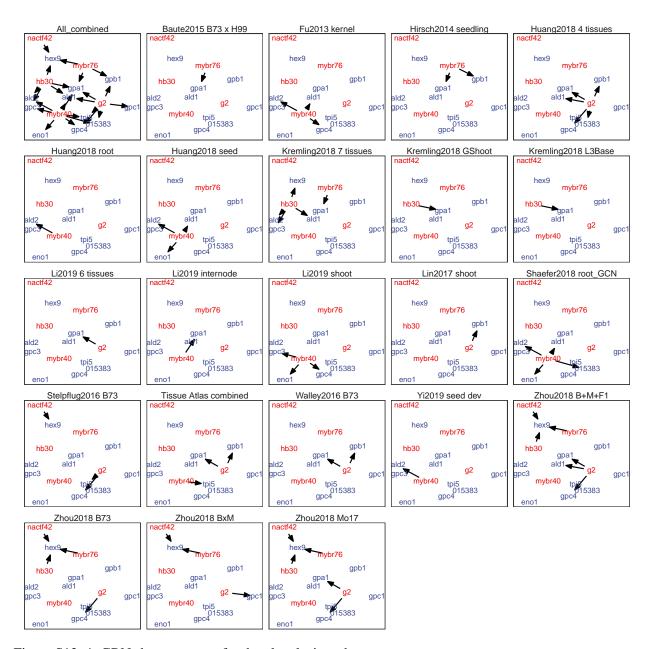


Figure S13_4. GRN shows support for the glycolysis pathway.

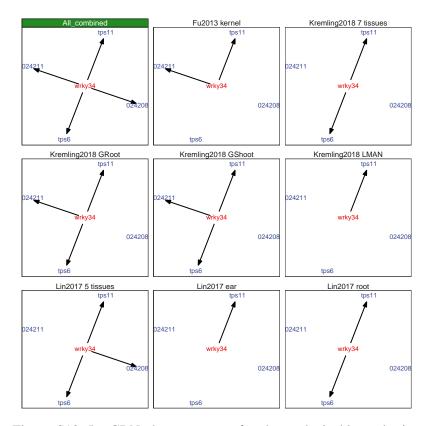


Figure S13_5. GRN shows support for the zealexin biosynthesis pathway regulated by a WRKY-transcription factor 34 (wrky34, 2m00001d009939).

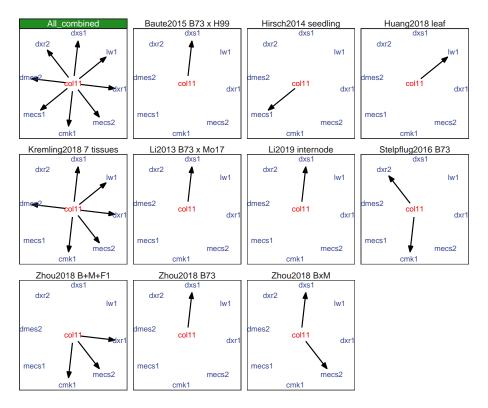


Figure S13_6. GRN shows support for the methylerythritol phosphate pathway regulated by a C2C2-CO-like-transcription factor 11 (col11, Zm00001d003162).

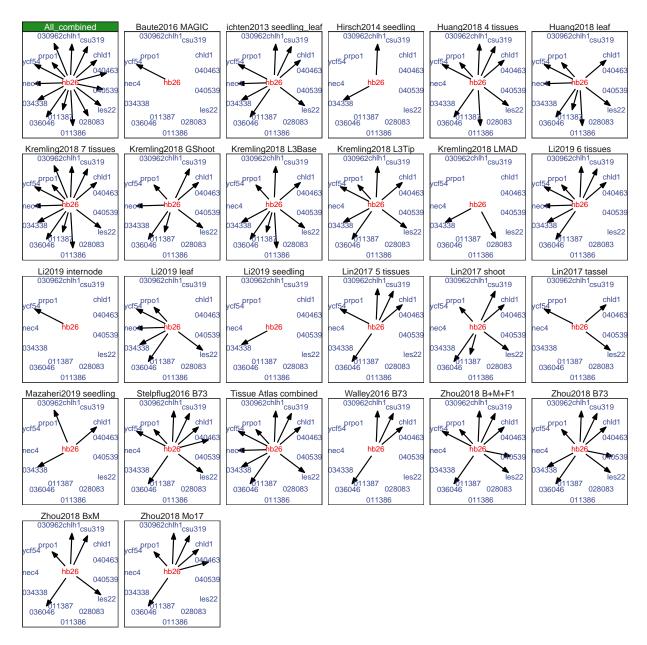


Figure S13_7. GRN shows support for the chlorophyllide biosynthesis pathway regulated by a homeobox-transcription factor 26 (hb26, Zm00001d008612).

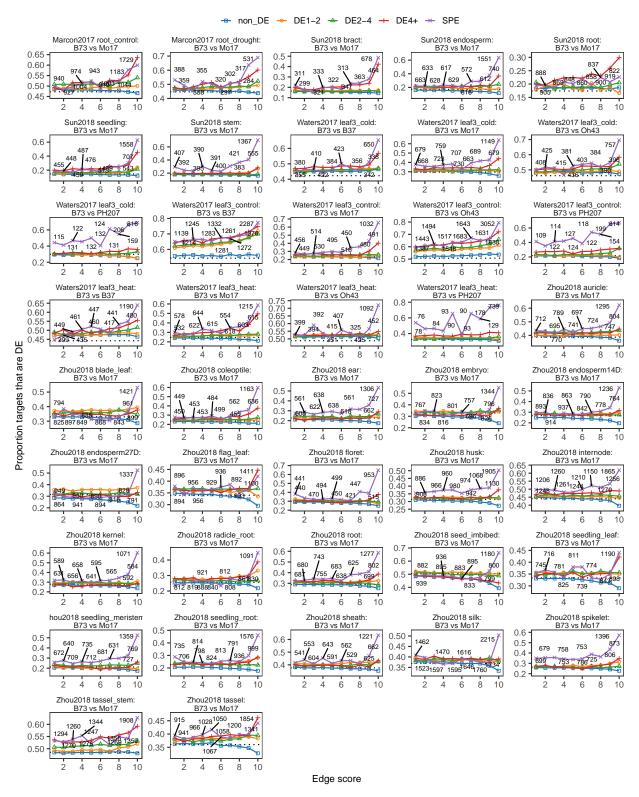


Figure S14. TF-target validation of the combined tissue network in all six selected natural variation datasets. Each panel shows the proportion of differentially expressed targets regulated by TFs showing different DE levels between two genotypes in one tissue/treatment condition. TF-target predictions were binned to 10 groups based on the interaction score in GRN. Each TF-target pair is classified according to the

DE level of the TF ("non_DE", "DE1-2", "DE2-4", "DE4+" or "SPE") in each network. The proportion of TF-target pairs with the target also showing DE was then determined for each category. Dashed line in each panel represents the genome-wide (background) proportion of DE genes in each tissue/treatment setting.

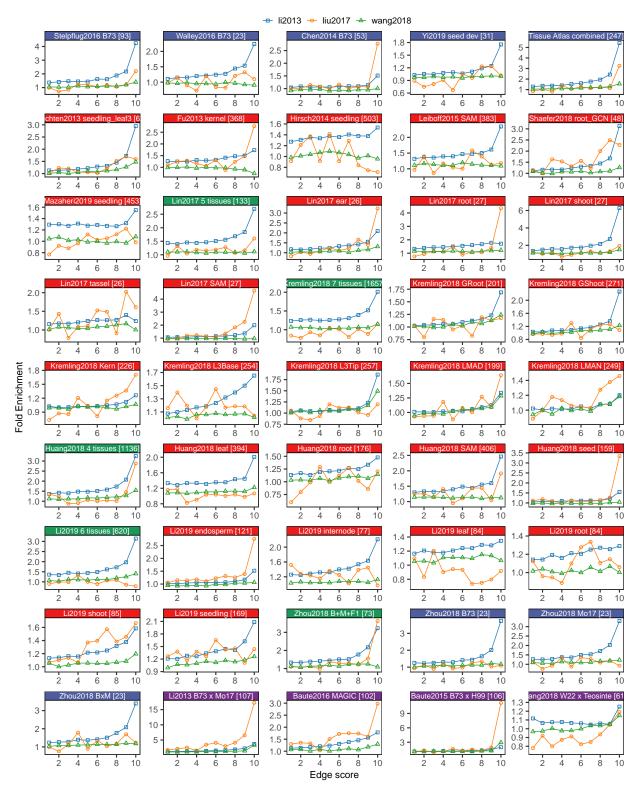


Figure S15. Enrichment of co-regulated targets between previously identified trans-eQTL hotspots and TF-target associations predicted by GRNs. For each network the top 1 million TF-target predictions were binned to 10 groups based on the interaction score in GRN. Fold enrichment is determined by the same permutation approach described in Figure 2.

| | Fold En | richment | 4 8 12 10 | 6 |
|---------------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Stelpflug2016 B73 [93] - | 4.2 | 2.2 | 1.4 | |
| Walley2016 B73 [23] - | 2.2 | 1.1 | .9 | |
| Chen2014 B73 [53] - | 1.5 | 2.8 | 1.0 | |
| Yi2019 seed dev [31] - | 1.8 | 1.0 | 1.0 | |
| Tissue Atlas combined [247] - | 5.4 | 3.3 | 1.5 | \boxtimes |
| Eichten2013 seedling_leaf3 [62] | 2.9 | 1.6 | 1.5 | \boxtimes |
| Fu2013 kernel [368] - | 1.7 | 2.8 | .7 | \boxtimes |
| Hirsch2014 seedling [503] - | 1.5 | .7 | 1.0 | |
| Leiboff2015 SAM [383] - | 2.3 | 1.2 | 1.1 | \boxtimes |
| Shaefer2018 root_GCN [48] - | 3.1 | 2.3 | 1.3 | \boxtimes |
| Mazaheri2019 seedling [453] | 1.5 | 1.0 | 1.1 | \boxtimes |
| Lin2017 5 tissues [133] - | 2.7 | 1.6 | 1.1 | \boxtimes |
| Lin2017 ear [26] - | 2.1 | 3.2 | 1.3 | |
| Lin2017 root [27] - | 1.7 | 4.4 | 1.2 | |
| Lin2017 shoot [27] - | 6.3 | 1.9 | 1.5 | |
| Lin2017 tassel [26] - | 1.2 | 1.6 | 1.0 | |
| Lin2017 SAM [27] - | 2.0 | 4.6 | 1.0 | |
| Kremling2018 7 tissues [1657] - | 2.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 | \boxtimes |
| Kremling2018 GRoot [201] | 1.7 | 1.2 | 1.2 | |
| Kremling2018 GShoot [271] - | 2.3 | 1.1 | 1.2 | |
| Kremling2018 Kern [226] | 1.3 | 1.7 | 1.1 | |
| Kremling2018 L3Base [254] - | 1.7 | 1.0 | 1.0 | |
| Kremling2018 L3Tip [257] - | 1.9 | 1.2 | 1.5 | |
| Kremling2018 LMAD [199] | 1.3 | 1.6 | 1.3 | |
| Kremling2018 LMAN [249] - | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.2 | |
| Huang2018 4 tissues [1136] - | 3.3 | 2.9 | 1.5 | \boxtimes |
| Huang2018 leaf [394] - | 2.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 | |
| Huang2018 root [176] - | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.1 | |
| Huang2018 SAM [406] - | 2.5 | 1.9 | 1.1 | |
| Huang2018 seed [159] - | 1.6 | 3.3 | 1.0 | |
| Li2019 6 tissues [620] - | 3.1 | .8 | 1.4 | \boxtimes |
| Li2019 endosperm [121] - | 1.5 | 2.8 | 1.1 | |
| Li2019 internode [77] - | 2.2 | 1.0 | 1.1 | |
| Li2019 leaf [84] - | 1.3 | .9 | 1.1 | |
| Li2019 root [84] - | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.0 | |
| Li2019 shoot [85] - | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.2 | |
| Li2019 seedling [169] - | 2.1 | 1.4 | 1.3 | |
| Zhou2018 B+M+F1 [73] - | 3.2 | 3.6 | 1.1 | \boxtimes |
| Zhou2018 B73 [23] - | 3.7 | 1.1 | 1.2 | _ |
| Zhou2018 Mo17 [23] - | 3.3 | .9 | 1.2 | |
| Zhou2018 BxM [23] - | 3.4 | 1.2 | 1.2 | |
| Li2013 B73 x Mo17 [107] - | 3.7 | 17.2 | 3.3 | \boxtimes |
| Baute2016 MAGIC [102] - | 1.8 | 3.0 | 1.3 | × |
| Baute2015 B73 x H99 [106] - | 2.0 | 11.2 | 2.9 | × |
| Wang2018 W22 x Teosinte [617] - | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.1 | × |
| 1.ag_510 1122 x 1000mto [017] | | - | | |
| | li2013 | liu2017 | wang2018 | |

Figure S16. Enrichment of co-regulated targets between previously identified trans-eQTL hotspots and TF-target associations predicted by GRNs. For each network the top 1 million predicted TF-target associations were binned to 10 bins and only the first bin (top 100k edges) were used to assess enrichment. 15 high quality networks (marked with crosses) were selected to identify the main TF regulators underlying trans-eQTL hotspots (see Methods).

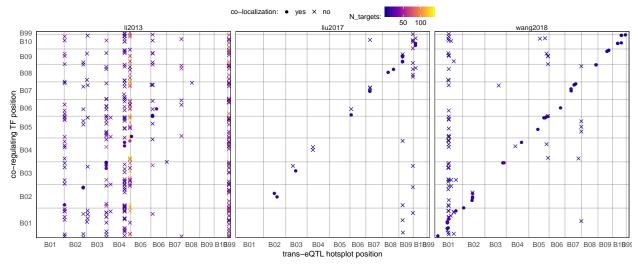


Figure S17. Co-localization of TFs predicted by GRNs in this study and trans-eQTL hotspots identified in previous studies that regulate the same set of targets. Each trans-eQTL hotspot were first tested for significant overlap in targets with any TFs (hypergeometric enrichment test as implemented in the phyper() function in R). To control for false positives, only TFs identified in at least two (out of 8 high quality networks, see Methods) that show significant co-regulation with at least one trans-eQTL hotspot (p < 0.01) were kept. Trans-eQTL hotspots identified in previous maize assemblies were lifted over to the AGPv4 assembly coordinates. Co-localization of a TF and a trans-eQTL is determined if the two coordinates are within 10-Mbp distance. Color of each dot represents the number of common targets between the predicted TF regulator and the trans-eQTL hotspot.

Table S1. ChIP-Seq and DAP-Seq datasets used in this study.

| TF alias | TF name | TF ID | Tissue | Study Type | Targets | Reference |
|----------|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------|---------|---------------|
| KN1 | knotted1 | Zm00001d033859 | ear, leaf, tassel, SAM | ChIP-seq | 648 | Bolduc2012 |
| P1 | pericarp color1 | Zm00001d028854 | endosperm | ChIP-seq | 20 | Morohashi2012 |
| RA1 | ramosa1 | Zm00001d020430 | ear | ChIP-seq | 203 | Eveland2014 |
| FEA4 | fascinated ear4 | Zm00001d037317 | ear | ChIP-seq | 99 | Pautler2015 |
| HDA101 | histone deacetylase homolog | Zm00001d053595 | seed | ChIP-seq | 112 | Yang2016 |
| O2 | opaque2 | Zm00001d018971 | endosperm | ChIP-seq | 32 | Zhan2018 |
| bZIP22 | bZIP-transcription factor 22 | Zm00001d021191 | kernel | ChIP-seq | 25 | Li2018 |
| TB1 | teosinte brach1 | Zm00001d033673 | tiller bud | ChIP-seq | 3445 | Dong2019 |
| ARF10 | | Zm00001d042267 | | DAP-seq | | Galli2018 |
| ARF13 | | Zm00001d049295 | | DAP-seq | | Galli2018 |
| ARF14 | | Zm00001d050781 | | DAP-seq | | Galli2018 |
| ARF16 | | Zm00001d053819 | | DAP-seq | | Galli2018 |
| ARF18 | | Zm00001d014377 | | DAP-seq | | Galli2018 |
| ARF25 | | Zm00001d011953 | | DAP-seq | | Galli2018 |
| ARF27 | | Zm00001d045026 | | DAP-seq | | Galli2018 |
| ARF29 | | Zm00001d026540 | | DAP-seq | | Galli2018 |
| ARF34 | | Zm00001d031064 | | DAP-seq | | Galli2018 |
| ARF35 | | Zm00001d014690 | | DAP-seq | | Galli2018 |
| ARF36 | | Zm00001d016838 | | DAP-seq | | Galli2018 |
| ARF39 | | Zm00001d003601 | | DAP-seq | | Galli2018 |
| ARF4 | | Zm00001d001945 | | DAP-seq | | Galli2018 |
| ARF7 | | Zm00001d039267 | | DAP-seq | | Galli2018 |
| BAD1 | | Zm00001d005737 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| BZIP25 | | Zm00001d010658 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| BZIP54 | | Zm00001d022542 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| BZIP57 | FEA4 | Zm00001d037317 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| BZIP72 | | Zm00001d008225 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| BZIP96 | | Zm00001d010638 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| EREB127 | | Zm00001d051451 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| EREB138 | | Zm00001d015639 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| EREB24 | BBM | Zm00001d002025 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| EREB29 | | Zm00001d012584 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| EREB71 | | Zm00001d048208 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| LBD16 | RA2 | Zm00001d039694 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| LBD19 | IG1 | Zm00001d042560 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| LBD38 | | Zm00001d010751 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| LBD5 | | Zm00001d029506 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| SBP30 | UB3 | Zm00001d052890 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| SBP6 | | Zm00001d012916 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |
| SBP8 | UB2 | Zm00001d031451 | | DAP-seq | | Ricci2019 |

Table S2. TF knockout mutant RNA-Seq datasets used in this study.

| TF alias | TF name | TF ID | Tissue | Reference |
|----------|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|
| KN1 | knotted1 | Zm00001d033859 | ear, leaf, tassel, SAM | Bolduc2012 |
| P1 | pericarp color1 | Zm00001d028854 | endosperm | Morohashi2012 |
| RA1 | ramosa1 | Zm00001d020430 | ear | Eveland2014 |
| RA2 | ramosa2 | Zm00001d039694 | ear | Eveland2014 |
| RA3 | ramosa3 | Zm00001d022193 | ear | Eveland2014 |
| FEA4 | fascinated ear4 | Zm00001d037317 | ear | Pautler2015 |
| HDA101 | histone deacetylase homolog | Zm00001d053595 | seed | Yang2016 |
| NKD1 | naked endosperm1 | Zm00001d002654 | aleurone, endosperm | Gontarek2016 |
| O2 | opaque2 | Zm00001d018971 | endosperm | Zhan2018 |
| bZIP22 | bZIP-transcription factor 22 | Zm00001d021191 | kernel | Li2018 |
| TB1 | teosinte brach1 | Zm00001d033673 | tiller bud | Dong2019 |
| GT1 | grassy tillers1 | Zm00001d028129 | tiller bud | Dong2019 |

Table S3. Natural variation datasets used for validation in this study.

| author | study | condition | contrast | non-DE | DE1-2 | DE2-4 | DE4+ | SPE |
|------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Waters2017 | stress cis-trans | leaf3 cold | B73 vs B37 | 14,991 | 5,508 | 2,524 | 2,191 | 765 |
| | | leaf3 cold | B73 vs Oh43 | 13,985 | 6,013 | 2,955 | 2,226 | 800 |
| | | leaf3 control | B73 vs B37 | 11,868 | 7,131 | 3,468 | 2,551 | 961 |
| | | leaf3 control | B73 vs Oh43 | 12,804 | 6,395 | 3,213 | 2,545 | 1,022 |
| | | leaf3 heat | B73 vs B37 | 14,488 | 5,491 | 2,937 | 2,276 | 787 |
| | | leaf3 heat | B73 vs Oh43 | 13,304 | 5,931 | 3,249 | 2,568 | 927 |
| | | leaf3 cold | B73 vs Mo17 | 17,235 | 2,783 | 2,136 | 1,550 | 796 |
| | | leaf3 cold | B73 vs PH207 | 17,202 | 3,023 | 2,075 | 1,439 | 761 |
| | | leaf3 control | B73 vs Mo17 | 18,843 | 2,012 | 1,610 | 1,226 | 809 |
| | | leaf3 control | B73 vs PH207 | 19,148 | 1,868 | 1,447 | 1,239 | 798 |
| | | leaf3 heat | B73 vs Mo17 | 18,453 | 2,433 | 1,641 | 1,152 | 821 |
| | | leaf3 heat | B73 vs PH207 | 16,533 | 3,404 | 2,312 | 1,459 | 792 |
| Marcon2017 | drought stress | root control | B73 vs Mo17 | 13,185 | 6,718 | 2,513 | 1,940 | 651 |
| | | root drought | B73 vs Mo17 | 13,828 | 6,370 | 2,347 | 1,864 | 598 |
| Sun2018 | mo17 genome | bract | B73 vs Mo17 | 19,008 | 832 | 980 | 1,192 | 702 |
| | | endosperm | B73 vs Mo17 | 18,841 | 1,021 | 1,240 | 1,016 | 596 |
| | | root | B73 vs Mo17 | 18,760 | 820 | 1,114 | 1,371 | 649 |
| | | seedling | B73 vs Mo17 | 19,416 | 661 | 850 | 980 | 807 |
| | | stem | B73 vs Mo17 | 18,669 | 887 | 1,130 | 1,164 | 864 |
| Zhou2018 | B73 Mo17 atlas | auricle | B73 vs Mo17 | 14,944 | 3,885 | 2,596 | 2,091 | 860 |
| | | blade leaf | B73 vs Mo17 | 16,331 | 3,174 | 2,170 | 1,775 | 926 |
| | | coleoptile | B73 vs Mo17 | 18,653 | 2,392 | 1,389 | 1,367 | 575 |
| | | ear | B73 vs Mo17 | 18,838 | 2,425 | 1,213 | 1,095 | 805 |
| | | embryo | B73 vs Mo17 | 16,351 | 3,577 | 2,227 | 1,407 | 814 |
| | | endosperm14D | B73 vs Mo17 | 17,848 | 2,570 | 1,748 | 1,468 | 742 |
| | | endosperm27D | B73 vs Mo17 | 16,695 | 3,105 | 2,254 | 1,458 | 864 |
| | | flag leaf | B73 vs Mo17 | 16,090 | 3,146 | 2,329 | 1,898 | 913 |
| | | floret | B73 vs Mo17 | 17,037 | 3,259 | 1,977 | 1,342 | 761 |
| | | husk | B73 vs Mo17 | 16,723 | 3,362 | 1,809 | 1,605 | 877 |
| | | internode | B73 vs Mo17 | 13,644 | 4,273 | 2,844 | 2,653 | 962 |
| | | kernel | B73 vs Mo17 | 17,590 | 2,946 | 1,734 | 1,362 | 744 |
| | | radicle root | B73 vs Mo17 | 18,120 | 2,346 | 1,764 | 1,501 | 645 |
| | | root | B73 vs Mo17 | 17,334 | 2,883 | 1,844 | 1,499 | 816 |
| | | seed imbibed | B73 vs Mo17 | 12,068 | 5,342 | 3,606 | 2,626 | 734 |
| | | seedling leaf | B73 vs Mo17 | 16,245 | 2,938 | 2,286 | 2,079 | 828 |
| | | seedling meristem | B73 vs Mo17 | 19,207 | 1,923 | 1,249 | 1,235 | 762 |
| | | seedling root | B73 vs Mo17 | 18,842 | 2,009 | 1,631 | 1,180 | 714 |
| | | sheath | B73 vs Mo17 | 15,209 | 3,885 | 2,633 | 1,810 | 839 |
| | | silk | B73 vs Mo17 | 15,378 | 3,577 | 2,303 | 2,152 | 966 |
| | | spikelet | B73 vs Mo17 | 17,984 | 2,736 | 1,589 | 1,209 | 858 |
| | | tassel | B73 vs Mo17 | 15,594 | 3,856 | 2,435 | 1,677 | 814 |
| | | tassel stem | B73 vs Mo17 | 12,564 | 4,625 | 3,512 | 2,652 | 1,023 |

Table S4. GRN-predicted TFs supported by trans-eQTL hotspots.

| ID | Support eQTL study | Support GRN | TF Annotation | Target enrichment |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|--|
| Zm00001d001945 | li2013,li2013,wang201 | lin2017, li2019, wang2018, huang2018, zhou2018, li2013, | Auxin response factor 4 | (25) histone H3-K9 methylation; (9) cytokinesis by cell plate formation; (8) cell proliferation |
| Zm00001d003162 | li2013,li2013 | baute2015 tissue atlas, leiboff2015, mazaheri2019, huang2018, li2013, kremling2018, zhou2018, baute2016, | Zinc finger protein CONSTANS-LIKE 5 | (57) cysteine biosynthetic process; (45) photosynthesis, light harvesting in photosystem I; (38) photosynthesis light reactions; (16) rRNA processing; (15) photosystem II assembly; (8) Calvin-Benson-Bassham cycle |
| Zm00001d003195 | li2013 | baute2015 tissue atlas, zhou2018 | Salt tolerance-like protein | (9) rRNA processing; (8) Calvin-Benson-Bassham cycle |
| Zm00001d004095 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2016 | basic helix-loop-helix (bHLH) DNA-binding superfamily protein | |
| Zm00001d004358 | wang2018 | baute2016, wang2018 | | (11) pentose-phosphate shunt |
| Zm00001d004497 | liu2017,wang2018 | baute2015, wang2018, | C2H2-like zinc finger protein | |
| Zm00001d005016 | liu2017,wang2018 | baute2016 baute2016, | WRI1 transcription | (22) glycolysis I (from glucose 6-phosphate) |
| Zm00001d006578 | li2013 | baute2015 li2013, baute2015 | factor1 Transcription factor bHLH130 | (11) L-alanine degradation II (to D-lactate) |
| Zm00001d006701 | li2013 | li2013, baute2015 | GRAS transcription factor | (6) C4 photosynthetic carbon assimilation cycle, PEPCK type |
| Zm00001d006721 | li2013 | li2013, baute2015 | Protein SHORT-ROOT | cycle, FEFCK type |
| Zm00001d010060 | liu2017 | baute2015, wang2018 | BEL1-like homeodomain | |
| Zm00001d010785 | liu2017 | li2013, baute2015 | protein 9 Putative GATA transcription factor family protein | |
| Zm00001d012544 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | myb domain protein | (6) glycolysis I (from glucose 6-phosphate) |
| Zm00001d012605 Zm00001d013547 | wang2018 li2013 | li2013, baute2015 li2013, baute2015 | MRP interacting1 BEL1-like homeodomain protein 3 | |
| Zm00001d015412 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | sequence-specific DNA binding transcription factors | (10) suberin monomers biosynthesis |
| Zm00001d017788 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2016, baute2015 | Dof zinc finger | |
| Zm00001d017900 | wang2018 | li2013, wang2018 | protein DOF2.1 Dof zinc finger protein DOF5.4 | |
| Zm00001d018225 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2016 | Homeodomain leucine zipper family IV protein | (27) triacylglycerol degradation; (15) phenylpropanoid biosynthesis; (11) very long chain fatty acid biosynthesis I |
| Zm00001d018465 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2016, baute2015 | , p.v.e | - G |
| Zm00001d020019 | liu2017 | li2013, baute2016, baute2015 | Protein PHR1-LIKE | |
| Zm00001d020043 | liu2017,wang2018 | baute2015 li2013, baute2016, baute2015 | Ethylene-responsive transcription factor ERF117 | |

| Zm00001d020408 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | Typical P-type | |
|----------------|-----------------------|---|--|--|
| Zm00001d021403 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | R2R3 Myb protein indeterminate1 | (9) UDP-sugars interconversion |
| Zm00001d021442 | wang2018 | mazaheri2019, baute2015 | domain7 Protein NLP2 | (6) sucrose degradation II (sucrose synthase) |
| Zm00001d021701 | wang2018 | li2013, wang2018 | Transcription factor | |
| Zm00001d024041 | liu2017 | li2013, baute2015 | ILR3 bZIP transcription | |
| Zm00001d024230 | liu2017,wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | factor 16 Nuclear transcription factor | |
| Zm00001d024268 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | Y subunit C-2 NAC domain-containing | |
| Zm00001d024323 | wang2018 | eichten2013, baute2015 | protein 21/22 Putative WRKY DNA-binding domain superfamily protein | (48) flavonoid biosynthesis (in equisetum);(16) anthocyanin biosynthesis |
| Zm00001d026147 | wang2018 | eichten2013, li2013, baute2015 | plant color component at R1 | (14) L-glutamine degradation I; (12) anthocyanin biosynthesis; (11) glycerophosphodiester degradation; (10) flavonoid biosynthesis (in equisetum) |
| Zm00001d026271 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | Putative AP2/EREBP transcription factor superfamily protein | introiona biosymnesis (in equisetain) |
| Zm00001d026448 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | Floral homeotic protein APETALA 2 | (11) proanthocyanidins biosynthesis from flavanols |
| Zm00001d028007 | wang2018 | baute2016, baute2015 | Calmodulin-binding transcription activator 2 | (26) gluconeogenesis I; (7) fatty acid biosynthesis initiation I |
| Zm00001d029934 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | Homeobox-leucine zipper protein HAT4 | |
| Zm00001d029963 | wang2018 | baute2015, wang2018 | myb-like transcription factor family protein | |
| Zm00001d030028 | li2013,wang2018 | leiboff2015, huang2018, li2013, baute2016, baute2015 | myc transcription factor7 | (48) response to wounding; (15) cutin biosynthesis; (10) regulation of transcription, DNA-templated; (8) jasmonic acid biosynthesis; (6) regulation of transcription, DNA-templated; (5) response |
| Zm00001d030727 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | Dof zinc finger protein DOF2.2 | to wounding (11) cell proliferation; (9) regulation of transcription, DNA-templated |
| Zm00001d030907 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | B3 domain-containing protein | |
| Zm00001d030908 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | B3 domain-containing protein | |
| Zm00001d031561 | wang2018 | baute2015, wang2018 | Transcription factor bHLH62 | (24) response to wounding; (7) response to wounding |
| Zm00001d031665 | wang2018 | baute2016, baute2015 | Transcription factor bHLH137 | (12) triacylglycerol degradation |
| Zm00001d033898 | li2013,li2013,wang201 | | BEL1-like homeodomain protein 4 | (34) Calvin-Benson-Bassham cycle; (23) photosystem II assembly; (10) rRNA processing; (9) isopentenyl diphosphate biosynthetic process, methylerythritol 4-phosphate pathway; (7) gluconeogenesis I; (7) photosynthesis light reactions; (7) response to cytokinin; (7) positive regulation of transcription, DNA-templated; (6) photosynthetic electron transport in photosystem I; (5) response to salt stress |

| Zm00001d034984 | li2013 | tissue atlas, zhou2018 | Putative NAC domain transcription factor superfamily | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|--|
| Zm00001d035084 | li2013,li2013 | shaefer2018, baute2015, li2013, baute2016 | protein Putative NAC domain transcription factor superfamily protein | |
| Zm00001d035195 | li2013 | tissue atlas, huang2018 | Protein LSD1 | (6) GDP-mannose biosynthesis |
| Zm00001d035224 Zm00001d036214 | liu2017 li2013 | lin2017, zhou2018 li2013, baute2016 | protein B-box zinc finger protein 22 | (20) glycolysis I (from glucose 6-phosphate) |
| Zm00001d036364 | wang2018 | eichten2013, kremling2018, | NAC domain containing protein | (8) glycerophosphodiester degradation |
| Zm00001d041831 | liu2017 | wang2018 baute2016, baute2015 | 36 DNA binding protein | |
| Zm00001d042463 | li2013 | huang2018, li2013 | Two-component response regulator ARR11 | |
| Zm00001d043420 | li2013,li2013,li2013 | kremling2018, baute2016, shaefer2018, li2019, tissue atlas, lin2017, zhou2018, li2013 | Basic leucine zipper 34 | (20) homogalacturonan degradation |
| Zm00001d044260 | li2013,wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | C3H-type transcription factor | |
| Zm00001d044355 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | B3 domain-containing protein | |
| Zm00001d044538 | li2013 | huang2018, zhou2018 | process | (8) regulation of transcription by RNA polymerase II; (7) cellulose biosynthesis; (7) triacylglycerol degradation |
| Zm00001d045581 | liu2017 | li2013, baute2016, baute2015 | Putative MYB DNA-binding domain superfamily | |
| Zm00001d045661 | li2013,liu2017,wang20 | ol &ssue atlas, eichten2013, mazaheri2019, lin2017, kremling2018, huang2018, li2019, zhou2018, li2013, | protein Zinc finger protein CONSTANS-LIKE 16 | (66) rRNA processing; (21) photosynthesis light reactions; (14) photosynthesis, light harvesting in photosystem I; (12) thylakoid membrane organization; (12) RNA modification; (10) response to cytokinin; (7) Calvin-Benson-Bassham cycle; (6) chloroplast organization |
| Zm00001d046323 | liu2017 | baute2015 fu2013, li2013, baute2016, | | |
| Zm00001d046405 | li2013,liu2017,liu2017 | baute 2015, wins 2018 ac ichten 2013, lin 2017, kremling 2018, huang 2018, li 2019, zhou 2018, baute 2016, wang 2018, leiboff 2015, shaefer 2018, li 2013, baute 2015 | Putative homeodomain-like transcription factor superfamily protein | (89) isopentenyl diphosphate biosynthetic process, methylerythritol 4-phosphate pathway; (60) thylakoid membrane organization; (24) 3,8-divinyl-chlorophyllide <i>>a</i> > biosynthesis I (aerobic, light-dependent); (18) positive regulation of transcription, DNA-templated; (13) pyrimidine ribonucleotides interconversion; (12) RNA modification; (10) chloroplast organization; (10) palmitate biosynthesis II (bacteria and plants); (6) chloroplast organization; (6) tetrapyrrole biosynthesis I (from glutamate) |
| Zm00001d046441 | liu2017 | li2013, baute2016, baute2015 | FAR1-domain family sequence | (7) formate oxidation to CO ₂ |

| Zm00001d047519 | li2013,wang2018 | leiboff2015, shaefer2018, lin2017, li2013, | basic leucine-zipper 52 | (15) cell proliferation |
|----------------|-----------------|--|---|--|
| Zm00001d047563 | wang2018 | baute2015 li2013, baute2015 | ethylene | (6) translation |
| Zm00001d047968 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | insensitive-like1 Zinc finger protein 1 | |
| Zm00001d047999 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2015 | Putative HLH | |
| Zm00001d051573 | li2013 | leiboff2015, lin2017, zhou2018 | DNA-binding domain superfamily protein Putative homeobox DNA-binding domain superfamily protein | |
| Zm00001d052798 | li2013 | leiboff2015, shaefer2018, li2013 | Homeodomain-like | |
| Zm00001d052847 | wang2018 | li2013, baute2016, baute2015 | superfamily protein Putative WRKY DNA-binding domain superfamily protein | |
| Zm00001d053124 | li2013 | tissue atlas, kremling2018, huang2018, li2019, zhou2018 | myb domain protein 60 | (33) thylakoid membrane organization; (30) isopentenyl diphosphate biosynthetic process, methylerythritol 4-phosphate pathway; (22) rRNA processing; (17) triacylglycerol degradation; (11) response to cold; (9) chloroplast organization; (7) photosystem II assembly; (7) Calvin-Benson-Bassham cycle; (5) photosynthesis light reactions; (5) RNA modification |