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NEW CEREAL VARIETIES IN AUSTRALIA

By I. THOMAS, Registrar of Cereal Varieties in Australia and J. REEVES, Agricultural Adviser

DURING 1953, one wheat, one oat and one flax variety were submitted and accepted for registration. In addition one oat variety, accepted for registration in 1951, is described in this Journal for the first time.

Particulars of these varieties as supplied to the Registrar are as follows:

SHERPA: The wheat cross Ghurka x Amity was made by A. R. Raw at Dookie Agricultural College, Victoria; subsequent selection also took place at the College.

The head is white, square, erect, partly bearded and non-shattering. The grain is white, round and starchy. The baking quality is described as being slightly superior to that of the principal wheat varieties grown in Victoria. It is four days later maturing than Insignia, the period of maturity being early to mid-season. The straw is short to medium in height, strong and stands well. Susceptible to rust, but resistant to flag smut.

BOVAH: An oat variety obtained from the crosses Bond x Victoria x Hajira, made by R. E. Soutter of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Stock; subsequent selection was carried out at the Regional Experiment Station, Hermitage.

The panicle is equilateral and erect with strong branches. The straw-coloured grain, medium in length, is of poor quality and has a fine awn. The straw is coarse, yellow and stout and of medium height; maturity is mid-season and it flowers 11 days earlier than Algerian. It is resistant to crown rust and Helminthosporium blight under field conditions, but is susceptible to stem rust. It is liable to shatter, however, it is intended solely as a grazing variety. Its recommendation for this purpose is its possession of crown rust resistance unassociated with susceptibility to Victoria blight. In addition it has been tested and proved suitable under field grazing conditions.

ACACIA: Although accepted for registration in 1951, this oat variety has not yet been described in this Journal.

The crosses (Victoria x Richland) x Algerian x Fulghum were made by S. L. Macindoe, at the New England Experiment Station, Glen Innes, New South Wales; subsequent selection also was carried out at that station.

The panicle is equilateral and erect with weak branches. The brown coloured grain, medium in length, is plump and has a fine awn. The straw is fine, yellow, stout and is medium to short in height; maturity is late, being six days later than Algerian. It is highly resistant to smut, but is moderately susceptible to leaf rust and susceptible to stem rust, race 8.

It is suitable for grain and for grazing, in these characteristics it is reported as being superior to Algerian.

VENTNOR: This flax variety was obtained from the crosses [(Saginaw x Ottawa) C.I.687 x Norfolk Earl] x Norfolk Earl; made by A. T. Pugsley at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, South Australia; subsequent selection taking place at the same locality.

It has small, violet flowers and small, partly dehiscent, easy threshing capsules. The seed is small and brown and the maturity is the same as Liral Crown. It is resistant to South Australian races of flax rust (Melampsori lini) and is equal to, if not superior to, Liral Crown in both fibre yield and grade.
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