Spring sown oats for hay - Variety trial Denmark Research Station, 1954

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An experiment was conducted at the Denmark Research Station in 1954 to compare the value in hay production of six early, and mid-season oat varieties, sown in early spring.

The six varieties used in the trial were Fulghum, Ballidu, Orient, Wongan, Avon (W.29) and W.32, all varieties being replicated five times in a randomised block design, on a soil type classified as Wakundup gravelly sand.

The land was ploughed and cultivated in the autumn (March, 1954) and left in fallow until August 23, when it was cultivated and worked down for a seedbed.

The plots were sown on August 24, by means of a drill.

Seeding rates were 2 bushels (80 lb.) of seed; 1½ cwt. superphosphate plus 3 lb. zinc oxide and 12½ lb. copper ore, to the acre.

Growing Conditions
After seeding on August 24, the weather remained unusually hot and dry for this district, with only light falls of rain. All varieties were somewhat backward in growth up to the end of September when good finishing rains brought rapid recovery and excellent growth.

Results
Details are given in tabulated form and it will be seen that three varieties—Fulghum, W.32 and Avon were superior to the remaining varieties giving 46.0, 43.9 and 42.5 cwt. to the acre respectively as against 27.5, 25.4 and 24.3 cwt. to the acre for Ballidu, Wongan and Orient.

There were no significant differences in yield between Fulghum, W.32 and Avon but, in the actual yields obtained, Fulghum recorded the highest average.

Fulghum seed is readily available through ordinary commercial channels and appears well suited to the Denmark district for both autumn and spring sowings.

Maturity
When spring-sown, all varieties tended to reach maturity at about the same time—only seven days separating the earliest and latest of them. Wongan was the earliest variety to mature and Orient and Avon (W.29) were the latest.
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