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Recommended crop varieties

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia

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RECOMMENDED CROP VARIETIES

RESULTS of variety trials carried out in 1968 by the Department of Agriculture were considered by the State Wheat Advisory Committee and the State Coarse Grains Advisory Committee in making recommendations on leading varieties of wheat, oats and barley. Details of the recommendations are set out below.

Included with the recommendations this year are suggestions on varieties regarded as the next best choice to those recommended. These second choice varieties give high yields and produce good quality grain, but they have not yielded as well as the recommended varieties on average and cannot be considered direct alternatives. They are suggested as suitable varieties where farmers for any reason are unable to sow those recommended.

Recommendations on linseed varieties have been included in view of the growing significance of the industry and representations from farmers for consideration of this crop along with the cereals.

WHEAT

The main varieties recommended are Gamenya, Falcon and Darkan. Rust resistant varieties Gamut and Timgalen are also recommended in rust prone areas.

Areas and sowing times for Gamenya, Falcon and Darkan are set out in the accompanying map.

Falcon is suitable for May planting in all areas except northern districts with less than 18 in. rainfall and all eastern districts with less than 13 in. rainfall where it is a second choice variety to Gamenya.

Gamenya is recommended as the first choice variety in the drier eastern and northern areas. In other areas it is the variety recommended for all June and later sowing. However, in parts of the high rainfall area, principally the lower West Midlands and west Great Southern areas, it is a second choice variety to Darkan. Recommendation of Darkan is confined to these specific higher rainfall areas where, on average, it has outyielded Gamenya.

Rust resistant varieties

Included in the recommendations for 1970 are the rust resistant varieties Gamut and Timgalen.

Until 1969 Mengavi was considered an appropriate source of resistance to rust should a Gamenya-attacking rust strain appear in Western Australia. The appearance of a hitherto-unrecorded strain of rust in the Esperance area in 1969, however, emphasises the changing position with wheat rust and the need to be prepared for a breakdown in resistance of Mengavi.

This new strain attacks Gamenya and Mengavi. Varieties Gamut, Timgalen, Mendos and Festiguay maintain resistance to it

The virulence of the new strain and the extent of build-up in the area have not been fully assessed, but farmers are advised to increase seed supplies of Gamut and Timgalen. These varieties could be required as major replacements in the event of a rust epidemic developing from the new rust race.
Timgalen is a new variety from Sydney University. It was tested extensively in Western Australia in 1969 and appears to yield about the same as Gamut. Seed supplies of the variety are limited. Pedigree seed will not be available this year but farmers should be able to acquire seed either from other farmers who grew the variety last year or by writing to the New South Wales Department of Agriculture.

**Grain quality**

Varieties recommended in Western Australia produce good bread flour as well as high yields. Additional varieties with excellent quality grain are available but are lower yielding.

Statistics on the areas of these better quality varieties in the State as a whole show that farmers are growing more of the better quality wheats. The proportion of the total wheat area sown to high quality bread wheat is now over 60 per cent., compared with 50 per cent. in 1960 and only 16 per cent. in 1950. However, low quality varieties such as Insignia, Insignia 49, Heron, Bencubbin and Bungulla are still prominent in many areas.

In drier districts where all varieties consistently produce high protein wheat, such varieties impair the general quality. While some of these varieties are high yielding, the evidence available indicates that any long-term yield advantage is marginal compared with recommended wheats.

**Approved varieties for quality**

The Australian Wheat Board in 1968 moved to discourage expansion of low quality wheat when it decided to restrict permits for farmer-to-farmer sales of seed wheat to certain varieties of recognised high quality for specific purposes. Below is a list of varieties which have full approval for quality in Western Australia. The list includes recommended varieties (marked (R)).

**APPROVED WHEAT VARIETIES**

All areas

(R) Gamenya.
(R) Falcon.
Mengavi.
Wagin.

All areas outside the designated soft wheat zone

The Soft Wheat Zone lies east and west of the lower Great Southern railway south of a line from Williams to Corrigin to Lake Grace. (See map).

Dirk.
Emblem.
Gabo.
Glaive.
Koda.
Kondut.
Raven.
Spica.
Wongoondy.
Festiguay Rust resistant.
(R) Gamut Rust resistant.
Mendos Rust resistant.
(R) Timgalen Rust resistant.

Within the Soft Wheat Zone for biscuit wheat production

Gluclub.
Bluclub.
Pinnacle.

Specified high rainfall areas

(Generally areas west of the Great Southern extending to the West Midlands.)
(R) Darkan.

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WHEAT VARIETY RECOMMENDATIONS—1970

Varieties and sowing times
* Second choice—lower yielding varieties

WEST MIDLANDS AND WEST GREAT SOUTHERN HIGH RAIN (over 18 in.)
May: Falcon; Late May-June: Darkan/Gamenya*

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN MEDIUM RAIN (13-18 in.)
May: Falcon; Late May-June: Gamenya

CENTRAL AND SOUTH CENTRAL LOW RAIN (under 13 in.)
May: Gamenya/Falcon*; Late May-June: Gamenya

NORTHERN, NORTH EAST AND SOUTH EAST LOW RAIN
May: Gamenya/Falcon*; Late May-June: Gamenya

Rust resistant varieties (build up stocks): Gamut & Timgalen

NORTHERN HIGH RAIN AND SOUTHERN HIGH RAIN
May: Falcon; June: Gamenya

Rust resistant varieties (build-up stocks): Gamut and Timgalen

SOUTH EAST MEDIUM RAIN
May: Falcon; Late May-June: Gamenya

Rust resistant varieties (build-up stocks): Gamut and Timgalen

BARLEY VARIETY RECOMMENDATIONS—1970

Varieties and sowing times

LOW RAINFALL AREAS
All sowings: Beecher

MEDIUM AND HIGH RAINFALL AREAS
(A) Where malting quality grain can be produced
All sowings: Dampier
(B) Where malting quality grain unlikely
May: Beecher; June: Dampier
OAT RECOMMENDATIONS—1970

Varieties and sowing times
* Second choice lower yielding varieties

NORTHERN AND NORTH-EASTERN LOW RAIN (under 13 in.)
May-June: Swan; July: Irwin

CENTRAL, EASTERN AND SOUTH-EASTERN LOW RAIN (under 13 in.)
All sowings: Swan

MEDIUM AND HIGH RAIN AREAS (over 13 in.)
All sowings: Swan/Avon*

**LINSEED VARIETY RECOMMENDATIONS—1970**

* Second choice lower yielding varieties

Varieties and sowing times

MAIN LINSEED AREA—Southern high rain (over 17 in.)
May: Kameniza/Gibson*; June: Gibson

POSSIBLE LINSEED PRODUCTION
May: Kameniza

LIMITED PROSPECT FOR LINSEED
May: Kameniza

POOR PROSPECTS FOR LINSEED
WHEAT VARIETIES NOT APPROVED

Widely grown or new varieties which are not approved for quality in any area are:

Bungulla.
Halberd.
Heron.
Insignia.
Insignia 49.
Robin.
Wren.

BARLEY

Recommended barley varieties are Dampier and Beecher.

Where malting quality barley can be produced the return from Dampier would be higher than from feed grade Beecher on average. Grown under favourable conditions Dampier produces high grade malting grain and should be farmers' first choice for growing in such conditions.

Production of good malting quality grain should be possible over much of the cereal area receiving more than 13 inches annual rain. Dampier yields more than Beecher in the wetter parts with over 18 inches average rain but in other areas it yields slightly less.

Conditions which do not favour production of low nitrogen, plump grain suitable for malting include low rainfall, heavy soils or very fertile soils, excessive application of nitrogen and very late sowing. In the high rainfall areas, on the other hand, sowing earlier than mid-May should be avoided as it increases the risk of rejection of grain due to weather staining. Late May-early June is a good time to sow.

Where malting grain production is unlikely Beecher barley should be sown for feed grain production.

The barley trade is specific in its requirements and sensitive to unspecified varieties or admixture of varieties. This applies to both the malting and feed sectors of the trade.

OATS

Swan and Irwin are the recommended oat varieties.

Swan is superior in yield to other varieties for all sowings up to the end of June in most areas. In northeastern areas Irwin yields well with later sowing compared with other varieties. It may outyield Swan under these conditions or if the season is short and dry as in 1969.

Avon is a suitable second choice variety in medium and high rain areas.

LINSEED

Kameniza and Gibson, the principal linseed varieties in Western Australia, continue to be recommended.

In the main linseed growing areas on the south coast, Kameniza is the preferred variety for early sowing. Kameniza is slightly later maturing than Gibson, generally performs better with early sowing, has a high seed oil content and stands well. Gibson is the second choice variety for early sowing and the recommended variety for later sowing in June.

In areas other than the south coast, May sowing of linseed is recommended with Kameniza as the main variety.

CHOICE OF CROPS

Application of wheat quotas poses the question of the next most profitable crop regardless of whether the return will be equal to wheat or not. Analysis of yields and returns from different cereal crops indicates that barley at present prices for feed grain gives a return which approaches that from wheat in higher rainfall areas. Barley is a better proposition than oats in all areas. At the higher price for malting grade, barley returns would equal those from wheat in many areas.

Returns from linseed are high in areas where the crop can be successfully sown. The crop compares well with wheat or barley, especially in situations where the yield of the cereals is reduced by disease attack. Linseed is being used to an increasing extent as a profitable cleaning crop before sowing wheat or barley.