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Crop Variety Recommendations for 1973

By H. M. Fisher, Adviser, Wheat and Sheep Division

There are few changes in crop varieties recommended for 1973 compared with those for the 1972 season. The main changes are—

- The phasing out of Darkan wheat in some areas;
- Introduction of Gambee wheat as the main hard wheat variety recommended for producing high protein grain;

Areas, Varieties and Sowing Times

(a) Normal Sowing Times:

West Midlands (Over 18 inches rainfall)
- Late May: Falcon/Darkan ** (1)
- June: Gamenya/Bokal**

West Great Southern (Over 18 inches rainfall)
- All sowings: Bokal/Gamenya*

Central and Eastern (Below 18 inches rainfall)
- Late May: Gamenya/Falcon*
- June: Gamenya

North and North-East (all rainfalls)
- (i) Standard Varieties (main sowing)
  - Late May: Gamenya/Falcon*
  - June: Gamenya
- (ii) Rust Resistant Varieties (reserve areas)
  - Late May and June: Eagle, Gamut, Timgalen

South-East
- (i) Main Sowing
  - Late May and June: Eagle (2)
- (ii) Reserve Areas
  - Late May and June: Gamut, Timgalen

(b) Very Early Sowing (Before Mid-May):
- For very early sowing on new land or where septoria is a risk:
  - Falcon/Kondut* (3)

NOTE—
*Second choice—lower yield.
**Second choice—higher yield but lower quality.
(1) Darkan is lower quality than Gamenya, Bokal and Falcon and is included only because of apparent septoria resistance.
(2) A softer wheat than Eagle is desirable but Eagle is recommended for this area because of resistance to rust. It is the highest yielding rust resistant variety available.
(3) Kondut is included because of apparent septoria resistance associated with its later maturity.
WEST AUSTRALIAN HARD GRADE (PROTEIN ABOVE F.A.Q.)

For growing in high protein situations for special delivery as "Western Australian Hard" grade (Map indicates the general area). All sowings: Gambee, Falcon, Gamenya. Gambee and Falcon produce grain with a hard appearance when the grain has a high protein. Gamenya tends to be much softer in appearance under the same conditions and although of suitable quality may not meet requirements for appearance.

- The recommendation of Eagle wheat as the main rust resistant variety.

The principal varieties recommended for general cultivation are Gamenya and Falcon wheats, Clipper, Dampier and Beecher barleys, Swan oats and Kameniza linseed. Bokal, Gambee, Gluclub, Kondut and Eagle wheat are recommended for special applications and a number of suitable alternative varieties are suggested.

Wheat varieties

Darkan is now excluded entirely from recommendations for the west Great Southern area where Gamenya is suggested as the second choice variety to the main variety Bokal. Darkan was included previously as the next best choice where growers did not wish to grow Gamenya, Bokal or Falcon although it was poorer quality than these varieties.

In the West Midlands area, Darkan has been replaced by Bokal as the second choice variety for June planting with Gamenya as the main variety. For early planting (May) in this area, however, Darkan is retained as an alternative to Falcon because of apparent septoria resistance. For very early sowing (April–early May) Kondut is suggested as an alternative to Falcon because its later maturity reduces the chance of bad septoria attack.

Gambee wheat was approved as a good quality bread wheat by the State Wheat Advisory Committee early in 1972. At a meeting in November, the Committee decided it was a suitable variety to recommend for sowing on heavy soils in drier areas for the production of special high protein hard wheat of good baking quality. It appears the variety could yield well under these conditions. Growers of Insignia, still a popular variety on the heavier land in many areas, are urged to replace Insignia and related varieties with Gambee.

Gambee is a good quality variety with good bushel weight grain. Falcon and other good quality varieties which have a hard appearance are suitable alternatives. Gamenya is included as an alternative but being a softer wheat it is likely that it will not meet the requirements for hard appearance in many cases.
even though protein content is at the required level.

Gambee is not a suitable variety for delivery as f.a.q. grade and should not be grown in situations likely to produce a lower level of protein such as on light land. For these situations, and for the production of f.a.q. grade generally, Gamenya remains the best variety for most areas of the wheatbelt.

Recommendation of Eagle wheat for the south-east and as a reserve variety for the northern wheat areas, is based on its continued resistance to rust strains in W.A. A softer wheat is desirable but none is available which combines the rust resistance and satisfactory yield of Eagle.

Glucieb wheat remains the variety recommended for low protein areas for producing soft wheat for biscuits.

Barley varieties

Emphasis is placed on the desirability of change-over to Clipper barley in most barley-growing areas in 1973. Dampier and Beecher are listed as the next best choices for the better rainfall (above 330 mm (13 in.) average) and lower rainfall (below 330 mm (13 in.) average) areas respectively.

It should be realised that replacement of Dampier and Beecher with Clipper involves different considerations. Dampier and Clipper are similar quality but Dampier is generally lower yielding than Clipper and this means a lower return. Beecher, on the other hand, can outyield Clipper and Dampier in some drier areas, particularly in dry seasons, but grain quality factors such as lower bushel weight, higher fibre and higher sieving loss are disadvantages which render it less attractive as an export grain. It appears a good market still exists for Beecher but the extent to which the variety continues to be grown depends mainly on continued demand, the ability of the handling authorities to provide facilities for receival in bulk, and satisfactory shipping arrangements.

Oat and linseed varieties

Oat and linseed varieties recommended are the same as for 1972, the main varieties being Swan oats and Kameniza linseed. Good results have been obtained with Glenelg linseed, a new variety from Victoria, and it is proposed to review the recommendation when results of current trials have been assessed.

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OAT VARIETY RECOMMENDATIONS 1973

AREAS, VARIETIES AND SOWING TIMES

Northern and North-Eastern Low Rain
(below 13 inches)
May-June:
Swan
Late June:
Swan/Irwin*

Central Eastern and South Eastern Low Rain
(below 13 inches)
May-June:
Swan/Irwin*

Medium and High Rain Areas
(above 13 inches)
May-June:
Swan/Avon*
(“Second choice—lower yielding)

Northern and North-Eastern
Low Rain (below 13 inches)
May-June:
Swan
Late June:
Swan/Irwin*

Central Eastern and South Eastern Low Rain
(below 13 inches)
May-June:
Swan/Irwin*

Medium and High Rain Areas
(above 13 inches)
May-June:
Swan/Avon*
(“Second choice—lower yielding)

LINSEED VARIETY RECOMMENDATIONS 1973

AREAS, VARIETIES AND SOWING TIMES

Main Linseed Area:
Southern High Rain
(Over 17 inches)
Late May-Early June:
Kameniza/Gibson*
Late June:
Gibson/Kameniza*

Possible Linseed Production
Late May-Early June:
Kameniza/Gibson*
Late June:
Gibson/Kameniza*

Limited Prospect for Linseed
Late May-Early June:
Kameniza/Gibson*
Late June:
Gibson/Kameniza*

Poor Prospects for Linseed
(“Second choice—lower yielding)

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