Crop variety recommendations for 1974

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia
Crop Variety Recommendations for 1974

Crop variety recommendations are reviewed each year and reflect trends in the market situation and the availability of new varieties with specific applications and advantages. In formulating the recommendations a comprehensive range of opinion and expertise is consulted, including that of growers through their representatives on the State Wheat Advisory Committee and the State Coarse Grains Advisory Committee. The following recommendations for 1974 cover a wide range of grain crops grown in the agricultural areas of W.A.

Wheat

Information available on quality requirements and markets for Western Australian wheat provide strong support for growing mainly varieties of the high yielding Gamenya type. Therefore Gamenya remains the major variety recommended for most areas.

Most of our wheat has a moderate protein level and wheats such as Gamenya provide the qualities which are suitable for a wide range of end uses. In addition Gamenya is a highly adaptable variety and gives excellent yields in most seasons over a wide area.

For the production of f.a.q. grade wheat the only situations in which Gamenya is not the main variety recommended are for early planting in the wetter western districts and general sowings in the rust liable areas of the south east.

In the West Midlands area where septoria is a problem Falcon is recommended for late May sowing, while Darkan and Kondut could be useful for earlier sowing where the risk of septoria damage is considerable.

Bokal is recommended ahead of Gamenya in the west Great Southern region where it is higher yielding than Gamenya as well as maintaining suitable quality for the area.

Rust-resistant varieties are recommended for the rust liable south eastern areas and the importance of this is underlined by the occurrence 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 to sidings nominated by Cooperative Bulk Handling Ltd. (Map indicates the main area)

May sowing: Gambee/Falcon
June sowing: Gambee

Second choice—lower yield on heavy land.

Eagle is the main rust-resistant variety recommended in W.A. at present. Growers are advised to plant, in addition, small areas of Gamut and Timgalen which have different sources of resistance to rust, and could remain unaffected if Eagle broke down. Eagle is not as high yielding as Gamenya but Gamenya is only recommended in rust-liable areas if farmers are prepared to run the risk of rust attack and want to grow a rust-susceptible variety.

The new rust resistant variety, Madden, will probably replace Eagle in the recommendations for 1975 following build up of seed by farmers in 1974.

Gambee remains the principal variety recommended for the Western Australian hard grade which is produced mainly on heavy soils in the drier eastern wheatbelt. Falcon is a suitable second choice variety for early planting in May but is unlikely to yield as well as Gambee when sown later. Both are high quality varieties which produce grain with a hard appearance when the grain has a satisfactory protein level. Segregation on a visual basis at the siding therefore provides a grade which is both high in protein and of good baking quality. Gambee and Falcon are too hard for the f.a.q. grade, and it is therefore desirable that sowing should be restricted to those situations where high grain protein would be developed, ensuring acceptance in the hard grade. Gamenya is now excluded from the recommendations for this grade because, being a much softer variety, it is unlikely to meet the requirements for appearance even when the grain has a moderately high level of protein.

Recommendations for the soft grade remain unchanged with Gluclub as the only variety recommended. The prime requirement for this grade is suitability of the wheat for producing biscuit flour. Gluclub is the variety most suited for this purpose at present but efforts are being made to produce a higher yielding replacement.
BARLEY VARIETY RECOMMENDATIONS—1974

Barley and oats
Recommendations for barley and oats remain unchanged. Emphasis in barley production is on the high yielding, 2-row variety Clipper, but Beecher has been retained as a second choice in drier areas where it yields well and because there is a worthwhile market outlet for it. Clipper is expected to replace Damper in better rainfall areas where its yield is generally superior.

Swan oats continues to be the main oat variety recommended for all areas. Close attention is being given to the question of an oat with lighter coloured grain than Swan, but at present, the only possible alternatives mean unacceptable reduction in either yield or general quality.

Lupins
Lupin grain production has increased in importance in recent years and recommendations cover the application of the three commercial sweet lupin varieties Unicrop, Uniharvest and Uniwhite. Seed supplies of Unicrop are extremely limited and the opportunity to grow the variety in 1974 will be restricted largely to growers who received seed in 1973 and those to whom Departmental seed will be allocated in 1974.

Because a major application of Unicrop is believed to be in drier areas with annual rainfall down to about 350 mm, distribution of seed will include these drier areas.

Unicrop is seen as the main variety eventually for general sowing in most areas as its earlier maturity gives greater flexibility in sowing time than is the case with longer season varieties.

Uniharvest is the next best choice for all situations and, because of more plentiful seed supplies, will be the main variety grown in 1974. It is emphasised in the case of Uniharvest that very early sowing in early May or even late April is necessary for best yields in most areas. It will do best in higher rainfall areas west of the Great Southern and along the south coast. Uniwhite is a suitable alternative to Uniharvest but is likely to yield less because of greater seed loss from pod shattering.

Linseed and rapeseed
Production of the oilseed crops, linseed and rapeseed, has fallen to a low level with a combination of unfavourable seasons, various production problems and improvement in the economic situation for other crops. However, there are good prospects for marketing oilseeds if the various problems can be overcome and considerable research work is continuing. Growers who persevere can expect better results as the findings from this work become available.

In the case of linseed it is expected that supplies of clean seed of the new high yielding variety Glenelg will be available for 1974. Glenelg has yielded 15 per cent. more than Kameniza in trials and is now recommended as the major variety in the linseed-growing region along the south coast.

Rapeseed varieties recommended are confined to the low erucic acid (LEAR) types Span and Zephyr. In high rainfall areas with more than 500 mm annual rainfall, it is suggested at present that best results would be achieved by sowing these varieties very late (August) to reduce infection with black-leg disease. In areas with 450 to 500 mm rainfall Span is the only variety recommended and earlier sowing is suggested.
OAT VARIETY RECOMMENDATIONS—1974

Northern Zone

Southern Zone

LUPIN VARIETY RECOMMENDATIONS—1974

AREAS, VARIETIES AND SOWING TIMES

High and Medium Rain Areas (above 13 inches)
May-June: Swan/Avon*
Northern and North-Eastern
Low Rain (below 13 inches)
May-June: Swan
Late June: Swan/Irwine*
Central Eastern and South Eastern
Low Rain (below 13 inches)
May-June: Swan/Irwine*
(* Second choice—lower yielding)

Field peas
Field peas have been grown consistently on a limited scale for many years. The crop is adapted to better rainfall areas but grows moderately well in districts with as low as 330 mm annual rainfall. New varieties, notably Derrimut and Buckley from Victoria, have appeared in recent years and their application to various areas has been studied.

Separate recommendations have been made for brown-seeded and white-seeded varieties in view of their specialised end uses including use of white-seeded varieties in the split pea trade. The main brown-seeded variety recommended is the short season, high yielding Derrimut. In the case of white-seeded varieties White Brunswick and Buckley are recommended for the higher and lower rainfall areas respectively. For general production the brown-seeded Derrimut is superior to the white-seeded varieties.

AREAS, VARIETIES AND SOWING TIMES

Northern High Rainfall Area (above 20 inches)
April: Uniharvest/Uniwhite*
May-June: Unicrop/Uniharvest/**/Uniwhite*

Southern High Rainfall Area (above 20 inches)
April-early May: Uniharvest/Uniwhite*
Mid. May-June: Unicrop***/Uniwhite*

Medium Rainfall Area (14 to 20 inches)
April: Uniharvest/Uniwhite*
May: Unicrop/Uniwhite***/Uniwhite*
June: Unicrop
* probably lower yield than Uniharvest due to pod shattering
** probably lower yield than Unicrop due to later flowering