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Miling wheat for northern areas

A new, high-yielding hard wheat bred by the Western Australian Department of Agriculture has been released for north central medium and high rainfall areas including the Midlands region.

Named Miling after a Midlands township and known previously as the crossbred 69W02-37, the new wheat is a short-midseason maturing wheat of short-medium height. The head is white and tip awned. The straw is strong and is normally slightly shorter than Gamenya.

It stands and holds its grain well and is expected to produce higher yields as well as improving the general quality of wheat produced in the area. It should replace most varieties in the area including the currently recommended varieties, Darkan and Gamenya. Limited yield data indicates it could also yield well in some central and eastern wheatbelt areas.

Miling was produced by Department plant breeder Mr. J.T. Reeves from a crossing programme with the varieties Gamenya, Mexico-120 and a previous crossbred, M123.

Yield testing began in 1974 and up to the end of 1978, Miling had been tested in 73 trials throughout the State. Best yields were on the lighter soil types in the higher rainfall areas with over 450 mm average annual rainfall.

In the West Midland area yield averaged 111 per cent of Gamenya compared with 101 per cent for Darkan. In the medium rainfall area (325 to 450 mm) between the Midland and Mullewa lines, yield averaged 107 per cent of Gamenya.

The grain of Miling has good milling quality and satisfactory test weight. It gives a higher flour yield than Gamenya or Madden. While protein content is slightly lower than Gamenya or Madden, Miling produces dough of satisfactory strength and extensibility.

Baking quality is generally better than Gamenya and is equal to Madden with similar protein levels. Miling is therefore considered suitable for the ASW grade to replace Gamenya, Darkan and other lower-yielding varieties.

Miling is susceptible to rust, but is resistant to flag smut disease. Some tolerance to glume blotch septoria, Septoria nodorum, compared with fully susceptible varieties such as Gamenya possibly contributes to its good performance in the west Midland area where this disease is a major problem.

Seed of the variety has been released in the west Midland area and eastern areas extending to the Mullewa line. The boundary of the area is roads joining the towns of Coolimba, Eneabba, Three Springs, Carnamah, Perenjori, Koonyanggoring, Calingiri, Wannamal, Bindoon, Gingin and Guilderton.