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Crop varieties for 1982

By H. M. Fisher, Senior Research Officer, Cereal Testing.

Each year the Department of Agriculture provides the State's grain producers with comprehensive variety recommendations as a guide to sowings in all areas. The recommendations are based on detailed analysis of yield and quality information from an extensive variety testing programme. The trial programme involves most of the Department's district offices and research stations located in the agricultural area, as well as 50 to 60 farmers on whose properties variety trials are carried out.

Yield results from some 5000 field trials covering more than 1000 varieties are available to compare the performances of various combinations of varieties in different parts of the agricultural areas. Factors such as time of sowing, soil type and rotation are taken into account also. The information covers new varieties produced locally and in other States. Most are tested widely before release so the resulting recommendations provide a valuable guide which growers could take many years to determine themselves.

While yield is important it is not the only determining factor. Grain quality and salability also influence the decision on whether a variety is released or recommended. The quality assessment is based on Department of Agriculture grain laboratory tests.

A wide cross-section of the industry expresses its opinions formally through representation on two committees set up to advise the Minister for Agriculture on industry developments. The State Wheat Advisory Committee deals with wheat matters; the State Coarse Grains and Seeds Advisory Committee considers other crops. The committees include grower, grain handling, processing, marketing and technical representatives who meet at least once a year to consider recommendations.

This article summarises the features of recommended varieties of each crop for the areas shown on the maps.

It makes no specific recommendations for different grades or situations within areas. Nor does it include any indication of alternative varieties to those recommended.

Farmnotes available from the Department of Agriculture carry these details. They are:

Wheat — Farmnote 86/81
Barley — Farmnote 104/81
Oats — Farmnote 105/81
Grain Legumes — Farmnote 106/81
Oilseeds — Farmnote 107/81

The following are comments on specific recommended varieties:

Wheat

Bokal: An early maturing, hard grain variety with excellent baking quality, suitable for A. Hard grade production. It is susceptible to rust and Septoria. It was considered resistant to flag smut but recent evidence suggests its resistance may have broken down. It is suitable for early sowing. It yields well in many areas but has the disadvantage of a lower test weight than Gamenya. It is recommended mainly in situations where test weight is acceptable and there is a yield advantage, including A. Hard production on better soil types in northern areas. Also it is recommended as a high yielding variety for sowing on deeper sandy soils in many northern and north central wheatbelt areas.

Darkan: An early maturing, hard grain variety with low baking quality, acceptable in ASW grade in higher protein (Northern) areas, pending development of a better quality alternative variety. It is resistant to flag smut but susceptible to rust. It has very good resistance to glume blotch Septoria... an advantage for early sowing (early May) in northern areas which few other varieties possess. This is the main reason for recommending Darkan. Its recommendation is now restricted to very early sowing in the northern, north central and central low rainfall areas.

Gamenya: An early maturing, medium height, soft grain variety very suitable for the ASW grade and acceptable as A. Hard grade when its protein content is high enough. It is susceptible to flag smut, stem rust and Septoria (this often causes severe yield depression with very early sowing). It is very widely adapted, and has been the leading variety in this State for many years. It is recommended for sowing after May 15 in many northern and north central low rainfall areas and widely recommended for late sowing (after June 30) and sowing on poorer soils in many areas.

Gamenya: An early maturing, medium height variety with low baking quality, acceptable in ASW grade in higher protein (Northern) areas, pending development of a better quality alternative variety. It is resistant to flag smut but susceptible to rust. It has very good resistance to glume blotch Septoria... an advantage for early sowing (early May) in northern areas which few other varieties possess. This is the main reason for recommending Darkan. Its recommendation is now restricted to very early sowing in the northern, north central and central low rainfall areas.

*Egret: An early to midseason soft grain variety suitable mainly for A. Soft grade but acceptable in ASW in lower protein (southern) areas where it is sometimes segregated as a separate grade. It is resistant to stem rust in Western Australia as well as flag smut and leaf spot Septoria, but susceptible to glume blotch Septoria. Egret is specifically adapted to high yielding situations, notably early sowing on clear ley land in high rainfall long season areas. It is recommended mainly as a rust resistant variety for the above-350 mm south coastal areas east of the Great Southern railway and also for very early sowing in the central high rainfall area.

Gamenya: An early maturing, medium height, soft grain variety very suitable for the ASW grade and acceptable as A. Hard grade when its protein content is high enough. It is susceptible to flag smut, stem rust and Septoria (this often causes severe yield depression with very early sowing). It is very widely adapted, and has been the leading variety in this State for many years. It is recommended for sowing after May 15 in many northern and north central low rainfall areas and widely recommended for late sowing (after June 30) and sowing on poorer soils in many areas.

*Halberd: An early to midseason, medium height wheat with hard grain which is lacking in some important quality characteristics, notably...
extensibility. It is unsuitable for A. Hard grade and limited in its application for ASW grade. Under varietal control provisions it is acceptable in ASW without discount, provided it does not reach a level which would affect the general quality of the bulk grain delivered to particular ports. It is moderately resistant to flag smut but susceptible to stem rust, although the attacking strain of stem rust is not prominent in this State at present. It is susceptible to Septoria, which may be responsible for lower yields when sown very early in some areas. Halberd is recommended at present mainly for south central areas east of the No. 2 State Barrier Fence, particularly for heavier soil types. Also it is recommended for May sowing on heavier soils (clays, clay loams, alkaline soils) over much of the lower rainfall area including the south east in years of low rust risk.

**Kite:** An early to midseason maturing, short to medium height wheat with hard grain. It is resistant to stem rust and flag smut but susceptible to Septoria. It yields well in some areas but its main feature is its excellent rust resistance derived from *Agropyron elongatum.* It is generally lower yielding than Madden and recommended in south coastal rust liable areas as a reserve variety to Egret and Madden in years of high rust risk.

**Lance:** This is a new variety from S.A. It is an early midseason maturing, short to medium height wheat with soft grain suitable for ASW grade. Its quality is better than Egret. It is moderately resistant to flag smut and Septoria, and resistant to stem rust in Western Australia. It yields well in many high rainfall areas but is mostly outyielded by Egret or Miling except in the northern high and medium rainfall areas and south central high rainfall areas where it is recommended.

**Madden:** An early maturing, medium height variety with hard grain, very suitable for A. Hard grade and acceptable for ASW grade if its protein is high enough. It is susceptible to flag smut and Septoria but highly resistant to stem rust Australia-wide. It is generally lower yielding than Gamunya and other varieties in most areas. Its major application is as a reserve rust resistant variety for sowing in years of high rust risk in rust liable northern and south coastal areas. It is recommended also in many low rainfall areas for late sowing (after June 30) on heavy soils and for general sowings after the end of May in south eastern low rainfall areas (below 350 mm).

**Miling:** This is a Western Australian bred variety released in 1979. It is an early to midseason maturing, short to medium height wheat with hard grain which is very suitable for both A. Hard and ASW grades. It sometimes produces small grain in adverse conditions such as late sowing or a dry seasonal finish. It is susceptible to rust but resistant to flag smut. It has some tolerance to Septoria. Miling has yielded exceptionally well from sowings up to mid-June in the north central high rainfall area (West Midlands) and the adjoining medium rainfall area. These are the main areas where Miling is recommended. It is recommended also for sowing up to mid-May in central and south central medium rain areas.

**Tincurrin:** A Western Australian bred variety released in 1978 specifically for A. Soft grade. It is an early maturing, short to medium height variety with soft grain, producing flour of very high quality for biscuit manufacture but unsuitable for bread. Tincurrin suffers a heavy discount when delivered to any grade other than A. Soft. It is susceptible to flag smut, stem rust and Septoria. It is a very high yielder, recommended for A. Soft production in areas served by A. Soft receival points (13 sidings in the area east of the lower Great Southern railway).

**Warigal:** A new early to midseason, medium height variety from South Australia producing hard grain acceptable for ASW grade. It is resistant to flag smut and stem rust in Western Australia and moderately resistant to Septoria. It is susceptible to black point infection of the grain. It gives good results from early sowing in many areas. It is recommended for south eastern low rainfall areas (below 350 mm) for early sowing on lighter soils.

**Warimba:** An early to midseason, short to medium height variety with hard grain acceptable for both A. Hard and ASW grades. It is resistant to stem rust but susceptible to both flag smut and Septoria. It is susceptible also to black point infection of the grain. It yields well over a wide range of conditions, particularly early sowings and poorer soil types, but usually is outyielded by other varieties. It is recommended as a reserve rust resistant variety for early sowing in northern rust liable areas.

*Note: These varieties may be subject to discount in the future if the proportion in port zone reaches an unacceptably high level.

**Barley**

**Beecher:** A very early maturing, very tall growing 6-row feed barley with higher grain fibre levels than Clipper. It is susceptible to scald and net blotch. It is high yielding in low rainfall areas and in adverse conditions such as late sowing or salt-affected soils. It is recommended for eastern and south eastern districts where it could be more profitable than 2-row provided the price is not substantially less than the 2-row feed price.
Clipper: An early maturing, short to medium height 2-row barley, producing good quality manufacturing grade grain suitable for malting. Clipper is resistant to net blotch, but susceptible to scald. It is recommended for all areas as the major variety for producing manufacturing grade grain, and over a wide area for all purposes (manufacturing and feed).

Forrest: A new, Western Australian bred, early maturing, medium to tall growing 2-row feed barley. It is unsuitable for malting. On no account should Forrest be delivered to any manufacturing grades. It is resistant to scald, has some resistance to net blotch and powdery mildew, but is susceptible to halo spot. It is an exceptionally vigorous early grower, with good potential for early grazing. Forrest yields well over a wide range of conditions and is well adapted to salt-affected soils. It was released in 1981 for specific application as a 2-row feed barley in south coastal areas and is now recommended for those areas.

Oats

Moore: An early maturing, medium to tall oat with good quality grain for feed and milling purposes. It is slightly later maturing than West, and has a slightly lower grain percentage and grain protein content. It is susceptible to rust. Moore compares well with West in other grain characteristics. It outyields West in many high rainfall areas (over 450 mm) particularly if sown early. It is recommended for all sowings in north central and central high rainfall areas, and for early sowing up to June 15 in south central and southern high rainfall areas.

West: An early maturing, medium tall oat with good quality grain for both feed and milling. It is notable for its high grain percentage and high grain protein. It is susceptible to rust. West yields well over a wide range of soil and environmental conditions, and is recommended for all sowings in all medium and low rainfall areas (below 450 mm), as well as northern high rainfall areas. West is recommended also for late sowing in south central and southern high rain areas.

Unicrop: An early maturing, short to medium height, sweet seeded, narrow-leaved lupin with white flowers and seed. It is resistant to grey leaf spot disease. It was released in 1979 to growers in northern areas. There it substantially outyields Unicrop in high and medium rainfall conditions, and is slightly ahead of Yandee. Illyarrie is recommended for the major lupin growing areas comprising the northern and north central high and medium rainfall areas with more than 325 mm rainfall, and for early sowing (May) along the south coast.

Unicrop: An early maturing, short to medium height, sweet seeded, narrow-leaved lupin with white flowers and seed. It is susceptible to grey leaf spot disease. Sometimes its short height presents harvesting difficulties. It is recommended primarily for northern low rainfall areas (below 325 mm) where it outyields other varieties.

Unicrop: This variety is almost identical to Illyarrie, but appears to be adapted more to the southern and drier areas and to later sowing. It is recommended for all central and south central areas, for north central low rainfall areas, and for sowing later than May in south coastal areas.

Linseed

Glencoe: An early to midseason maturing, white flowered variety of short to medium height with moderately strong straw and medium to large size brown seed. It is resistant to rust and has some resistance to pasmo disease. It gives a high yield of good quality seed with a high oil content. It is widely adapted, and recommended for all areas where linseed growing is considered feasible.