Recommended oat varieties, 1964

J L. McMullan
THE varieties Kent, Ballidu, Avon, Dale and Fulmark are recommended for sowing in 1964 by the Department of Agriculture and the Coarse Grains Advisory Committee.

The areas suitable for these varieties, when planted for various purposes, and the recommended planting times are given in the map and tables below.

**Oats as a Grain Crop**

Generally all the varieties named above yield grain of high milling quality suitable for sale as such locally or to valuable overseas markets.

They are also suitable for use as stock feed, for which a large portion of each season’s harvest is retained on farms.

**Avon**

Unfortunately the variety Avon confuses this simple picture. It is suggested that if it is desired to sell the grain through the Oat Pool, Avon should only be grown in the more southern and western portions of the late zone. The shaded sector of the map below indicates the likely extent of this area. Here Avon may be expected to produce a grain sample with a high kernel...
OATS FOR GRAIN

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<th>Late Planting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Early</td>
<td>Kent Ballidu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midseason</td>
<td>Fulmark Dale Avon—feed only</td>
<td>Kent Ballidu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late</td>
<td>*Avon Fulmark Dale</td>
<td>Kent Ballidu</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Milling oat—shaded area only, elsewhere feed grain.

Oats for Grazing or for Grazing and Recovery for Grain

It is a common practice in the early and midseason zones for oats to be scratched into wheaten stubble to provide early and, if necessary, subsequent green grazing. Grain yields following grazing usually decrease in proportion to the number and severity of the grazings imposed on the crop.

More rarely oats are planted in such areas essentially as a grain crop with similar land preparations as for a wheat crop. If the season should then prove unfavourable for the growth of paddock feed these oat crops may be grazed.

For the early zone Kent and Ballidu are the recommended oat varieties, but it should be noted that the barley variety Beecher is superior for these purposes. Beecher barley provides as much grazing and should produce more grain following grazing.

Avon, Dale and Fulmark are the oat varieties recommended for grazing in the midseason zone.

In the late zone oats are generally planted as a grain crop, particularly in districts in the shaded sector of the map, where they are grown as the main cash crop. Should green grazing be required the varieties recommended are as for the midseason zone—Avon, Dale and Fulmark.

The grain produced when oats are grazed and allowed to recover will generally have a lower kernel percentage and may be suitable only for feed.

OATS FOR GRAZING AND RECOVERY

<table>
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<td>Early</td>
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DESCRIPTION OF VARIETIES

Brief descriptions of the individual varieties recommended are:

Kent

Early maturing with coarse, medium to tall straw. Holds its grain well in windy conditions. Grain awnless and generally
plump, milling quality very high. Tolerant of barley yellow dwarf virus disease. This variety was bred by the W.A. Department of Agriculture.

**Ballidu**

Early maturing with fine, medium to tall straw. Has a tendency to shed some grain under windy conditions. Grain awned, medium-plump, milling quality high. Susceptible to barley yellow dwarf virus disease. This variety was bred by the W.A. Department of Agriculture.

**Avon**

Midseason maturing with coarse, medium height straw. Under high rainfall, high fertility conditions grows tall and has a tendency to lodge. Holds its grain well, even if lodged. Grain awnless, plumpness and milling quality largely dependent on the area in which it is grown. Tolerant of barley yellow dwarf virus disease and also of a low manganese content in the soil. Bred by the W.A. Department of Agriculture.

**Fulmark**

Midseason maturing with fine, short to medium height straw. Lodging tendency similar to Avon. Holds its grain fairly well. Grain lightly awned, generally plump, milling quality very high. Moderately tolerant of barley yellow dwarf virus disease. Bred by the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture.

**Dale**

Midseason maturing with fine, tall straw. More resistant to lodging than Avon and Fulmark under high fertility conditions but has a tendency to shed some grain under windy conditions. Grain awned, medium plump, milling quality high. Susceptible to barley yellow dwarf virus disease. Bred by the W.A. Department of Agriculture.
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