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AGRONOMY NOTES

SOILS • CROPS

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BARLEY - OAT VARIETIES, 1963

Selection of barley and oat varieties is important to growers of these small grains. Tests are conducted across Kentucky by the University of Kentucky Agronomy Department to determine yield, winter hardiness, disease resistance, standability, and other characteristics important to efficient production. Planting dates are more important for these two crops than for wheat and rye because of winter freeze damage. The best planting dates for barley and oats run from September 1 to September 20. Later plantings are made in Kentucky but are subject to more damage from cold weather. Increased planting rates in barley tend to improve yield in case of delayed seeding.

Barley varieties of interest include:

Dayton: A winter barley variety developed and released in Ohio. Beards are semi-smooth. Head is not so compact as Kenbar but usually has more kernels of grain per head. Equal or superior to Kenbar in yield and grain quality. Slightly less winter-hardy than Kenbar but usually a day or two later in maturing. Dayton has been 2 inches taller than Kenbar but equal or superior in straw strength. Dayton is less resistant than Kenbar to loose smut, leaf rust, and mildew but more resistant to scald, net, and spot blotch.

Kenbar: A winter barley variety developed and released by the University of Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station. Beards are semi-smooth, and heads are short and rather compact. Kenbar is a high-yielding variety with good winter hardiness under Kentucky conditions. It is early heading, early maturing, and short strawed with good straw length. It has good resistance to loose smut, leaf rust, and mildew but is susceptible to scald, net blotch, and spot blotch under Kentucky conditions.

Kenate: A winter barley variety originally developed in Kentucky then re-selected for winter hardiness in Canada and named and released by Canada. Kenate

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has characteristics and performance very similar to Kenbar with the major exception that it is more winter-hardy. Kenate is the most winter-hardy variety that performs satisfactorily in Kentucky.

Hudson: An acceptable variety with good winter hardiness but seed supply is extremely short.

Rogers: Not recommended for Kentucky conditions but attracting wide interest in western Kentucky. This variety has not performed well in a test conducted in 1963.

Winter oat varieties:

Atlantic: Medium winter-hardy, early variety with yellow kernels. Taller than Dubois and about the same height as Forkedeer. Straw strength equal to forkedeer but not as strong as Dubois. Resistant to oat smuts.

Dubois: A winter oat variety developed and released by Indiana. Yields have been good with excellent grain quality. Dubois is more winter-hardy than Atlantic and has a stiffer straw. Dubois heads and matures about 3 days later than Atlantic and is about 4 inches shorter. This variety is susceptible to crown rust but resistant to oat smuts.

Forkedeer: A winter oat variety developed and released by Tennessee. Yields have been good with good grain quality. Forkedeer is about as winter-hardy as Atlantic and has similar straw strength. Forkedeer heads and matures about 4 days later than Atlantic and has been about 2 inches shorter than Atlantic. Forkedeer is susceptible to crown rust and susceptible to the oat smuts.

Bronco: Seed of this variety of winter oats is not available.

S. H. Phillips