Circular of Information 568
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OMAR

a red-chaffed white club wheat

OMAR, a red-chaffed white club wheat was developed for use in the Pacific Northwest. This new wheat is highly resistant to smut.

Omar was developed at the State College of Washington, Pullman, and tested in Oregon cooperatively by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and Oregon Agricultural Branch Experiment Station agronomists at Pendleton and Moro.

This circular was prepared by O. A. Vogel, Agronomist, A. R. S., USDA, and K. J. Morrison, Extension Agronomy Specialist, State College of Washington.

Agricultural Experiment Station
Oregon State College
Corvallis

OMAR

a red-chaffed white club wheat

In 1955 a new red-chaffed white club wheat was released cooperatively in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. It was released because of its superiority over Elgin, Elmar and other club wheats in resistance to smut.

smut resistance

In smut tests Omar exhibited a high resistance to all the known races of common bunt. It is also highly resistant to dwarf bunt. New races of smut may attack Omar. To help hold down the development of new smut races treat the seed with one of the mercuric or hexachlorobenzene seed treatment materials at the recommended rate.

shattering and threshability

Omar is equal to Elmar and Elgin in its resistance to shattering. Omar threshes more readily than Rex but not as easily as Golden or Hymar.

winter hardiness

In winter hardiness Omar is similar to Elmar and Elgin. It is less winter hardy than the Turkey types.

milling and baking quality

Omar is similar to Elgin in milling and baking qualities. It is softer than Elmar. The flour yield is high and excellent for cake and cookies. Flour from Omar is suitable for the pastry industry only, as it is not suitable for bread making.

yielding ability

In 19 specific red-chaffed club trials during 1953-55 in Washington and Oregon, Omar outyielded Elmar—10 per cent in 12 trials in Washington and 15 per cent in 7 trials in Oregon.

In 1955 additional trials were conducted in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. In these trials Omar outyielded Elmar by 4 per cent in Washington, 9 per cent in Oregon and 1 per cent in Idaho.

easy to identify

Omar is red-chaffed white club winter wheat. This red chaff makes it easy to tell Omar from other club wheats. It is similar to Elmar in height and field performance. It has medium-tall, white, stiff straw with good resistance to lodging.

development of Omar

The new wheat is a cross of Elgin-19 and Elmar, made in 1947 at Pullman, Washington by Dr. O. A. Vogel, Agronomist, A.R.S., U.S. Department of Agriculture at the State College of Washington. Omar combines nearly all the major factors for bunt resistance known at the present time.

recommended areas

Omar is recommended in the White club producing area of Washington, Oregon and Idaho. It is not recommended in the lower rainfall areas of these states where it tends to have a high protein content, making it undesirable for milling and baking.