

Northern NY Agricultural Development Program 2010 Project Report

Variety Trials for Small Grains (Wheat, Heritage Wheat) and Food-Grade Soybeans

Project Leader

Michael Davis (mhd11@cornell.edu), Research Associate, Cornell University
Agricultural Experiment Station

Collaborators

Anita Deming (ald6@cornell.edu), Extension Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of
Essex County

Jerry Cherney (jhc5@cornell.edu), Forage Specialist and E.V. Baker Professor of
Agriculture, Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences, Cornell University

Michael Hunter (meh27@cornell.edu), Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson
County

Wheat Variety Trials

Background

Finding varieties with solid agronomic characteristics (yield potential, maturity, disease resistance, stand-ability, quality) that are well adapted to regional growing conditions is an essential first step toward a profitable cropping season. Trials at the Cornell E.V. Baker Research Farm have provided NNY farmers with variety performance evaluations since the 1980's. These trials test established varieties from regional seed companies such as W.G. Thompson, JGL Inc., and Seedway, in addition to advanced lines and recently released varieties from Dr. Mark Sorrells' breeding program at Cornell.

Methods

2009-2010 trials included 21 spring wheat varieties and 15 winter wheat varieties. Trials were conducted at the E.V. Baker Research Farm in Willsboro, NY. A randomized complete block design was employed with three replications for each trial. Plots were located on a Rhinebeck clay loam soil with subsurface tile drainage. 200 lb/acre 6-24-24 was broadcast applied and incorporated with a spring-tooth harrow prior to planting each trial. Additionally, the winter wheat plots received a spring topdress application of ammonium nitrate (33-0-0) at a rate of 75 lbs nitrogen per acre. Plant heights, lodging scores, disease incidence, and bird damage data were collected prior to grain harvests. Grain samples from each plot were cleaned, and then tested for moisture content and bushel weight.

Results: Winter Wheat Trial

The 2010 winter wheat trial consisted of eleven soft white winter (SW), two soft red winter (SRW), and two hard red winter (HRW) varieties (Table 1). Plots were planted at a 2 bu/acre seeding rate on September 26, 2009, and harvested July 26, 2010. Grain yields ranged from 56.0 bu/acre to 84.7 bu/acre with a trial mean of 70.0 bu/acre. Overall 2010 trial yields were lower, and plant heights were shorter than in 2009 (Table 2).

Zorro, a hard red winter wheat variety, had the highest mean yield, while another hard red winter variety, *Harvard*, also yielded near the top of the rankings. Additionally, two experimental lines from Dr. Mark Sorrells' breeding program yielded particularly well for the second year in a row (Table 1). No major lodging problems were observed in any of the plots. Winter grain test weights averaged 56.8 lb/bu, and moisture levels at harvest averaged 13.2%.

Variety	Market Class	% H2O	Yields (bu/acre)	Test Weight. (lb/bu)	Plant Height (inches)	Lodging Scale 0-10
Zorro	HRW	13.2	84.7	59.3	39.0	0
NY03180FHB10	SW	13.2	82.0	55.8	27.0	0
NY03179FHB10	SW	12.9	77.5	57.3	30.8	0
Harvard	HRW	13.4	77.4	59.5	31.1	0
E0028	SW	12.7	77.3	56.0	26.4	0
NY88046-7088	SW	12.8	73.9	56.5	32.2	0
Caledonia Resel.	SW	13.3	70.4	56.7	28.7	0
Bess	SRW	13.7	67.8	56.5	27.4	0
Caledonia	SW	13.1	66.5	56.0	31.1	2
Cal 4PHS-10	SW	13.2	66.5	56.0	27.6	0
Jensen	SW	12.8	65.9	56.8	29.1	0
Truman	SRW	13.5	64.3	57.0	30.6	1.7
NY03179FHB12	SW	12.9	62.9	55.7	28.5	1
Cayuga	SW	13.6	57.5	56.3	27.8	1
Richland	SW	13.2	56.0	56.7	32.7	0.3
Trial Mean:		13.2	70.0	56.8	30.0	0.4

Variety	Market Class	2009 Yields (bu/acre)	2010 Yields (bu/acre)	2009 Plant Ht. (inches)	2010 Plant Ht. (inches)
NY03180FHB10	SW	103.4	82.0	39.2	27.0
CaledoniaRes-1	SW	102.7	70.4	37.8	28.7
NY03179FHB12	SW	100.9	62.9	37.1	28.5
E0028	SW	99.1	77.3	37.5	26.4
NY88046-7088	SW	97.9	73.9	41.6	32.2
NY03179FHB10	SW	97.6	77.5	38.6	30.8
Truman	SRW	96.7	64.3	36.9	30.6
Bess	SRW	94.9	67.8	35.3	27.4
Caledonia	SW	92.1	66.5	37.1	31.1
Cal 4PHS-10	SW	90.5	66.5	36.3	27.6
Richland	SW	90.1	56.0	41.2	32.7
Zorro	HRW	89.1	84.7	47.2	39.0
Jensen	SW	88.8	65.9	38.1	29.1
Harvard	HRW	87.1	77.4	39.6	31.1
Cayuga	SW	85.9	57.5	46.9	27.8
Trial Mean:		94.6	70.0	39.4	30.0

Results: Spring Wheat Trial

Twenty-one hard red spring wheat varieties were included in the 2010 trial (Table 4). Nineteen entries were repeats from the 2009 trial, while *Glenn* and *Red Fife* (a Canadian land race) were new to the test. Spring wheat plots were planted April 15, 2010 and harvested July 27, 2010. The seeding rate was 2.5 bu/acre.

2010 trial results were very similar to the 2009 test with respect to variety yields and plant heights (Tables 3 & 4). No lodging was observed in either year. Test weights were notably higher in 2010 compared to 2009, and the grain moisture level at harvest was lower in 2010 relative to 2009.

Star performers from past hard red spring wheat variety trials, including *HRS6002*, *HRS45-025J*, *Russ*, and *Hannah*, once again produced the highest yields. These four entries have consistently topped the yield rankings over multiple years (2006-2010) and appear to be particularly well suited to northern New York growing conditions. As in several past trials, *Dapps* and *Coteau* produced the lowest mean yields in 2010 and should probably be dropped from the test. The two new entries, *Red Fife* and *Glenn*, did not yield particularly well relative to the other varieties in the trial, but they are reported to have very high bread baking quality characteristics, and as a result command a premium price in the marketplace. In many circumstances the increased value of these varieties will more than offset somewhat lower yields.

Table 3. 2009 Spring Wheat Variety Trial Results

Variety	Market Class	% H2O	Yields (bu/acre)	Test Weight. (lb/bu)	Plant Height (inches)	Lodging Scale 0-10
HRS6002J	HRS	15.5	83.0	57	45.4	0
HRS45-025	HRS	15.5	78.6	57	39.1	0
Russ	HRS	14.8	71.8	55	39.9	0
Hannah	HRS	16.0	71.4	56	42.0	0
2375	HRS	15.2	67.0	55	35.2	0
Alsen	HRS	16.1	66.8	56	34.5	0
SD45-015J	HRS	15.9	64.4	55	30.1	0
Parshall	HRS	15.7	63.9	57	41.2	0
Stoa	HRS	14.3	62.0	53	33.5	0
Freyr	HRS	15.6	61.2	55	36.2	0
HRS45-035	HRS	14.9	60.9	56	36.0	0
CM606	HRS	15.2	60.6	58	35.2	0
Butte 86	HRS	15.1	60.4	54	39.9	0
Profit	HRS	14.7	60.4	54	33.3	0
Knudson	HRS	15.7	58.2	54	30.4	0
Gunner	HRS	14.7	58.0	57	40.0	0
HRS6001J	HRS	16.0	53.6	55	39.1	0
Dapps	HRS	15.3	51.8	53	46.2	0
Coteau	HRS	14.9	50.2	53	45.7	0
Trial Mean:		15.4	64.1	55	38.4	0

Table 4. 2010 Spring Wheat Variety Trial Results

Variety	Market Class	% H2O	Yields (bu/acre)	Test Weight. (lb/bu)	Plant Height (inches)	Lodging Scale 0-10
HRS6002J	HRS	13.6	79.9	60	44.2	0
HRS45-025	HRS	13.7	70.8	61	38.1	0
Hannah	HRS	13.7	69.4	61	42.3	0
Freyr	HRS	14.3	67.7	59	38.1	0
Russ	HRS	13.5	67.6	61	39.0	0
Butte 86	HRS	13.1	64.7	60	39.1	0
Stoa	HRS	13.1	64.5	57	33.9	0
Alsen	HRS	14.3	63.5	60	33.3	0
2375	HRS	13.3	62.9	60	34.0	0
Knudson	HRS	13.9	62.7	59	31.6	0
Parshall	HRS	13.4	62.6	61	40.0	0
Gunner	HRS	13.5	62.6	61	38.6	0
SD45-015J	HRS	13.5	61.6	59	32.0	0
HRS6001J	HRS	13.4	61.5	61	35.8	0
Profit	HRS	13.2	60.3	59	29.0	0
HRS45035J	HRS	14.2	60.0	59	32.4	0
Glenn	HRS	14.1	58.1	61	36.0	0
CM606	HRS	13.6	57.7	61	35.0	0
Red Fife	HRS	13.7	56.2	57	51.4	0
Coteau	HRS	13.0	54.3	56	43.6	0
Dapps	HRS	12.8	53.4	56	42.4	0
Trial Mean:		13.6	63.9	60	37.9	0

Organic Food-Grade Soybean Variety Trial

Background

Northern New York is well suited for growing soybeans, and the total number of north-country acres devoted to soybean production continues to increase. Growing certified organic food-grade soybeans can significantly increase the value and profit potential of the soybean crop. Demand for high quality food-grade soybeans continues to grow, and the establishment of a regionally located soybean food processing business (Vermont Soy) could serve as a solid market for organic growers in the area. If farmers are going to be successful with food-grade soybean production, it is essential that we identify food-grade varieties that are well adapted to northern New York growing conditions and meet the quality specifications of processors.

Methods

Twenty-two commercially available food grade soybean varieties were included in the 2010 trial. Thirteen of the entries were repeats from the 2009 trial, and nine entries were new. A randomized complete block experimental design with five replications was employed. Food grade soybeans were grown on tile drained, certified organic fields with a Rhinebeck clay loam soil at the Cornell University E.V. Baker Research Farm. Plots were 10' wide and 20' long, and consisted of four rows with a 30" spacing between the rows. Target planting depth was 1" and all seed was inoculated with the appropriate OMRI approved *Rhizobium* sp. prior to planting. Plots were seeded May 27, 2010 and harvested October 20, 2010. Weed control measures included cultivation with a rotary hoe (two passes in opposite directions) when the plants were approximately 4" tall and had their first set of true leaves, and an additional between row cultivation with sweeps in mid summer (sweeps were mounted on an Allis Chalmers G tractor). Prior to harvest plant heights were measured and the plots were scored for lodging (Photo 1).

Results

Overall food-grade soybean yields in the 2010 trial were exceptional (Table 5). The trial mean of 54.8 bu/acre was higher than the 2009 (52.4 bu/acre), 2008 (48.0 bu/acre), and 2007 (41.5 bu/acre) trials. High yields in the 2010 trial were supported by a timely May planting date and excellent growing conditions during the season. Soybean plants were taller on average in the 2010 trial than in 2009 (Table 6), and there was a trend toward increased yields with taller, later maturing varieties. No lodging was observed in any of the plots, and the mean moisture level at harvest was 11.4%.

The 2010 trial provided a second year of data for thirteen of the entries in the test. A comparison of yields between 2009 and 2010 (Table 6) shows that while the 2010 yields for most varieties were either similar or higher than in 2009, *Nova* and *Acora* produced markedly lower yields in 2010. Plant heights were much higher in 2010 than in 2009 for all thirteen entries, so the reduced yields with *Nova* and *Acora* are difficult to explain.

Considering varieties with two years of results, *PR807228* and *Vinton 81* consistently ranked at or near the top of the test for yield. While *Acora*, the highest yielding entry in 2009, also ranked near the top of the list when yields were averaged over two year (Table 7), its performance in the 2010 trial was not that impressive. A first year entry, *15K9*, yielded very well in 2010; an additional year or two of testing is needed to fully assess its relative performance. *Korus*, *Nova*, *Venus*, and *1F44* yielded toward the bottom of the trials in both years.

Variety	R8 Stage Date	% H2O	Yields (bu/acre)	Plant Height (cm)	Lodging Scale 0-10
PR807228	Oct. 4	11.8	61.9	84.4	0
15K9	Sept. 27	11.3	59.5	76.8	0
Vinton 81	Oct. 4	12.2	58.7	100.6	0
Oria	Sept. 27	11.4	58.4	70	0
10F8	Sept. 27	11.6	57.7	88	0
1A24	Oct. 4	11.6	56.9	76	0
Dares	Sept. 27	11.5	56.8	78.4	0
CFS08.5.0	Sept. 21	11.1	55.7	70	0
Auriga	Sept. 21	11.3	55.6	69.2	0
15F8	Oct. 4	11.9	55.6	68.2	0
Naya	Sept. 21	11.4	55.2	67.4	0
Krios	Sept. 27	10.8	55.2	78.2	0
Destiny	Sept. 21	11.6	55.1	78.2	0
Acora	Sept. 27	11.3	55.0	91.6	0
PR8072A3	Sept. 21	11.0	54.4	68.6	0
Etna	Sept. 21	11.2	54.3	66.6	0
Venus	Sept. 21	11.3	54.2	84	0
1F44	Sept. 27	11.8	53.1	85.8	0
PR717917	Sept. 27	11.1	51.9	71	0
CFS08.3.0	Sept. 10	11.5	48.1	65.6	0
Nova	Sept. 21	10.9	46.5	68.6	0
Korus	Sept. 21	11.3	44.6	64.2	0
Trial Mean:		11.4	54.8	76.0	0

Variety	2009 Yields (bu/acre)	2010 Yields (bu/acre)	2009 Plant Heights (cm)	2010 Plant Heights (cm)
10F8	57.3	57.7	53.5	88.0
Korus	37.0	44.6	39.5	64.2
Nova	49.4	46.5	46.3	68.6
Acora	66.0	55.0	60.8	91.6
1F44	39.0	53.1	45.9	85.8
Naya	56.7	55.2	42.8	67.4
Venus	47.6	54.2	51.0	84.0
Oria	47.6	58.4	49.0	70.0
Vinton 81	56.7	58.7	62.3	100.6
Destiny	54.9	55.1	52.3	78.2
PR717917	52.4	51.9	48.3	71.0
PR8072A3	52.8	54.4	50.0	68.6
PR807228	63.8	61.9	55.5	84.4
Trial Mean:	52.4	54.4	50.5	78.6

Variety	Yields (bu/acre)	Plant Height (cm)
PR807228	62.8	71.6
Acora	59.9	77.9
Vinton 81	57.8	83.6
10F8	57.6	72.7
Naya	55.9	56.4
Destiny	55.0	66.7
PR8072A3	53.7	60.3
Oria	53.6	60.7
PR717917	52.1	60.9
Venus	51.2	69.3
Nova	47.8	58.7
1F44	46.8	68.1
Korus	41.2	53.2
Trial Mean:	53.5	66.1

Heritage Wheat Variety Trials

Background

As an outgrowth of the local foods movement, there is increased interest on the part of millers, bakers, and consumers in regionally grown and processed “heritage” wheat varieties that may have unique flavors or other desirable quality characteristics. In an effort to explore the potential for heritage wheat production in New York, Elizabeth Dyck at NOFA-NY obtained several heritage varieties of winter wheat from Mark Sorrells’ breeding program at Cornell University, and spring Emmer wheat from North Dakota State University. In collaboration with Elizabeth Dyck, heritage winter and spring Emmer wheat trials were conducted on the Cornell E.V. Baker Research Farm. 2010 was the second year of this study.

Heritage Winter Wheat

Methods

Eleven heritage varieties and nine modern varieties were included in the 2010 heritage winter wheat trial. The trial was conducted on a Rhinebeck clay loam soil with subsurface tile drainage. Organic production practices were followed, but the field was not certified organic. The test followed three years of alfalfa/timothy sod and one year of spring grains in the rotation. A randomized complete block design with three replications was employed. All plots were 6’ x 16.5’. Modern varieties were planted at a 2 bu/acre (120 lbs/acre) seeding rate. *Clarks Cream* was an exception as it was planted at 75 lbs/acre. The seeding rate for the heritage varieties was 60 lbs/acre. Plant heights, lodging scores, disease incidence, and bird damage data were collected prior to grain harvest. Plots were planted on September 26, 2009, and harvested on July 26, 2010.

Results

Overall the moisture levels at harvest, yields, and bushel weights were very similar for modern and heritage entries (Table 8). As a group the heritage varieties were taller than the modern varieties in the 2010 trial (Table 8), but no significant lodging problems were noted in any of the 2010 entries. It was surprising that four heritage varieties, *Genesee*, *Yorkwin*, *Yorkstar*, and *Honor*, and two modern varieties, *Geneva* and *Caledonia-Reselect*, topped the yield ranking (Table 9). The 2010 trial was managed organically, and the comparable yields for modern and heritage lines suggests that the tall, competitive growth habits of the heritage lines may have helped them to perform well in an organically managed system.

Means averaged over all entries in each group	Modern Varieties (means for 9 entries)	Heritage Varieties (means for 11 entries)
% H2O @ Harvest	13.0	12.9
Yield (bu/acre)	58.1	57.0
Test Weight (lb/bu)	57	58
Height (inches)	36.5	47.0
Lodging (0-10 scale)	0.04	0.39

Variety	Class	% H2O	Yields (bu/acre)	Test Weight. (lb/bu)	Plant Height (inches)	Lodging Scale 0-10
Geneva	Modern	12.8	68.4	58	37.4	0
Caledonia Resel.	Modern	13.0	65.5	57	32.0	0
Genesee	Heritage	12.6	65.4	57	46.6	0.7
Yorkwin	Heritage	12.9	64.6	58	49.1	0.7
Yorkstar	Heritage	12.8	63.8	57	41.2	0
Honor	Heritage	12.8	62.5	58	47.5	1
Cayuga	Modern	13.4	62.4	60	40.4	0.3
NY Batavia	Modern	13.0	62.3	56	36.1	0
Jensen	Modern	12.9	59.7	57	31.0	0
Avon	Heritage	12.6	58.8	58	46.3	0
Houser	Modern	12.4	57.9	55	36.9	0
Valprize	Heritage	12.6	57.2	58	47.1	0
Purcell	Modern	12.8	56.4	57	40.2	0
Forward	Heritage	12.9	55.7	58	45.1	0
Grandprize	Heritage	12.8	53.3	58	47.8	0
Pride of Genesee	Heritage	12.9	49.3	60	53.3	0.7
Richland	Modern	13.1	49.3	57	34.4	0
Goldcoin	Heritage	13.2	48.6	59	45.8	1.3
Genesee Giant	Heritage	13.7	48.4	58	46.9	0
Clark's Cream	Modern	13.9	40.8	59	40.0	0
Trial Mean:		13.0	57.5	58	42.3	0.2

Heritage Winter Wheat Seeding Rate Experiment

Background

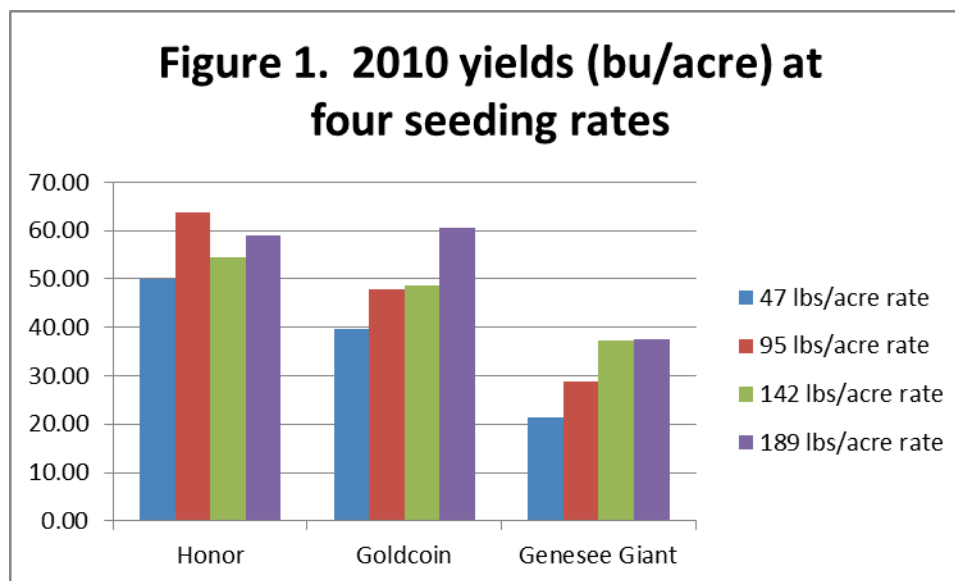
Recommended seeding rates for the heritage varieties are much lower those for modern varieties. A seeding rate study was designed to examine the relationship between seeding rate and plant growth habit, yield, and standability with heritage winter wheat lines.

Methods

Three heritage winter wheat varieties (*Honor*, *Goldcoin*, and *Genesee Giant*) were planted at four seeding rates (47, 95, 142, 189 lbs/acre) on the Cornell University E.V. Baker Research Farm in Willsboro. The trial was conducted on a Rhinebeck clay loam soil with subsurface tile drainage. Organic production practices were followed, but the field was not certified organic. The test followed three years of alfalfa/timothy sod and one year of spring grains in the rotation. A randomized complete block design with three replications for each variety-seeding rate treatment was employed. All plots were 6' x 16.5'. Plant heights, lodging scores, disease incidence, and bird damage data were collected prior to grain harvest. Plots were planted on September 26, 2009, and harvested on July 26, 2010.

Results

The three heritage varieties differed in their response to seeding rate. *Honor* was the only entry that had the highest yield at the recommended seeding rate of 95 lbs/acre (Figure 1), while *Goldcoin* and *Genesee Giant* trended toward higher yields at the higher seeding rates. Very little lodging was exhibited by *Goldcoin* or *Genesee Giant* at any of the seeding rates (Table 10). More lodging problems occurred with *Honor*, but the problem was consistent across all four seeding rate treatments. 2010 results indicate that more research is needed to establish the optimal seeding rates for heritage winter wheat varieties, and that each variety will need to be evaluated separately.



Variety	Seeding Rate (lb/ac)	% H₂O	Yields (bu/acre)	Test Weight. (lb/bu)	Plant Height (inches)	Lodging Scale 0-10
Honor	47	13.2	49.9	57	48.2	3.0
Honor	95	13.6	63.9	58	48.0	2.7
Honor	142	13.3	54.4	57	47.6	3.0
Honor	189	13.2	59.0	57	45.4	3.0
Goldcoin	47	13.9	39.8	58	44.8	0.7
Goldcoin	95	13.5	47.9	58	48.6	0.7
Goldcoin	142	13.4	48.8	57	45.4	2.7
Goldcoin	189	13.4	60.6	57	45.7	0
Genesee Giant	47	14.1	21.3	55	45.4	1.3
Genesee Giant	95	14	28.8	57	46.9	0
Genesee Giant	142	13.8	37.2	57	43.2	0
Genesee Giant	189	13.8	37.5	57	44.2	0.7

Spring Emmer Wheat

Methods

Seven emmer wheat varieties were included in the 2010 trial for a second year of testing on the Cornell E.V. Baker Research Farm. The trial was conducted on certified organic fields with a Rhinebeck clay loam soil and subsurface tile drainage. A randomized complete block design was employed with three replications for each entry. The seeding rate for all the Emmer varieties was 100 lbs/acre. Plots were planted on April 26, 2010 and harvested on July 27, 2010. The trial was scored for lodging, bird damage, disease incidence and plant height prior to harvest.

Results

All seven emmer wheat varieties were much shorter and lower yielding in 2010 than in 2009 (Table 11). The 2009 trial followed a plowed down alfalfa/grass sod, and the high fertility levels resulted in very tall, high yielding plants that had significant lodging problems. In contrast, the 2010 trial followed three years of annual grain crops in the rotation, so fertility levels were lower and the soils structural health was constrained. Lower fertility and poorer soil health likely account for the shorter, lower yielding plants in 2010. On the plus side, no lodging problems were observed in the 2010 trial. During our two years of testing we've overshot and undershot the ideal soil fertility and plant populations for the emmer wheat varieties in our test. More research is needed to nail down the preferred rotational and agronomic practices for this small grain crop.

Emmer	2009 Yields	2010 Yields	2009 Plant Height	2010 Plant Height

Variety	lb/acre (w/hulls)	lb/acre (w/hulls)	(inches)	(inches)
Bowman	2147	1531	44.2	36.7
Red Vernal	2435	1423	45.8	36.1
Common H	2187	1490	45.7	38.3
Common R	2304	1501	43.0	38.3
Lucille	2590	1501	50.5	36.7
Common M	2120	1837	46.5	39.0
ND Common	2174	1786	45.8	37.9
Trial Mean:	2280	1581	45.9	37.6

Outreach

Tabulated trial results are posted on the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program website www.nnyagdev.org. Results were also presented during research farm field days, regional extension meetings and workshops.

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For more information

Michael H. Davis, Cornell E.V. Baker Willsboro Research Farm, 48 Sayward Lane, Willsboro, NY 12996. (518) 963-7492. email: mhd11@cornell.edu