

REDMAN WHEAT

By
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Redman is a beardless hard red spring wheat variety developed and released for increase in Canada in 1946. It is a selection from a cross Regent x Canus. We have grown Redman in our trials the last 3 years. During that period it has compared quite closely with Regent in appearance, length of straw, time of maturity, resistance to covered smut and to stem rust. It has been slightly better in yield than Regent but not superior and hardly equal to some of our other varieties which mature later and have a higher capacity for yield.

Redman is resistant to black chaff and is not as susceptible to loose smut as Mida, nor as susceptible to shattering. In Canada, Redman is considered as having a little more tolerance to drought conditions than Regent, slightly stronger straw and more suitable for direct combining. Tests for milling and baking qualities have shown Redman to be satisfactory, comparing favorably with Regent. How Redman and Regent have compared in yield for the years grown at North Dakota Stations is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Comparing Regent and Redman Wheats.

	Average yield per acre—bushels				Weighted average 8 station years
	Fargo	Edgeley	Langdon	Minot	
	1946 to 1947	1946 to 1947	1947	1946 to 1948	
Regent	21.7	20.3	29.5	26.0	23.9
Redman	23.8	20.9	31.7	28.8	25.9

Regent was not grown at most of the stations in 1948. However, during the earlier years that it was grown in comparison with other varieties it did not show as high, or consistently good yields, under our variable conditions as was usually observed in varieties like Mida, Rival, Pilot or Thatcher.

How Redman has compared in yield with these other varieties during the three years grown is shown herewith.

Comparing Redman with 5 Well-Known Varieties.

	Average yield per acre—bushels						Weighted average 13 station years
	Fargo	Edgeley	Langdon	Minot	Dickinson	Williston	
	1946 to 1948	1946 to 1948	1947 to 1948	1946 to 1948	1948	1948	
Thatcher	25.9	22.2	37.9	28.3	33.0	36.8	28.8
Rival	26.1	23.6	46.1	24.9	35.8	33.5	29.6
Mida	25.0	23.5	42.9	27.7	35.9	30.9	29.3
Pilot	26.2	21.9	37.7	24.1	39.8	36.8	28.4
Cadet	24.4	23.1	38.7	24.9	37.8	32.6	28.1
Redman	24.1	21.3	38.3	28.8	31.4	31.4	27.8

While these comparisons are too few to draw final conclusions, they do serve as an indication of what may be expected. Since Redman seemingly does not possess any more resistance to the important rusts than the above varieties with which it has been compared, distinct advantage in yield over a longer period is hardly to be expected.

Present stocks of Redman seed lack some in uniformity of type or purity. This has been a handicap in the increase and distribution of seed, much of the Redman failing to meet the standards of purity required for certification. Canadian plant breeders recognize this fact and have reselected lines from later generations, and now have these under increase. It is expected that seed from these reselected and more uniform lots will be available for distribution in another year or two. In the meantime present Redman stocks may be grown by those who wish to grow the wheat primarily for market use, the off-types offering no serious disadvantage for that purpose.

Farmers who have been growing Regent and like it because of its earliness, length of straw and lack of beards, should find Redman quite satisfactory. It does not, however, seem to be particularly superior to our present varieties in the more important respects such as stem and leaf rust resistance, or in yield. Therefore it is not expected that it will come to occupy any large acreage. All of our present varieties, including Redman, lack some in resistance to the race or races of leaf rust which we have experienced the last few years.

That farming is a business as well as a way of life is pointedly emphasized in Miscellaneous Publication No. 652, U. S. Department of Agriculture, under the title of "Managing Farm Finances" by H. L. Larsen and N. W. Johnson, Agricultural Economists. The bulletin may be obtained by sending 20 cents to the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. This bulletin discusses prices and their effect on financial management, management of money, investments in the farm, credit in farming, investments outside the farm, reserves in farming, insurance for the farm and life insurance for the farmer. It is a useful handbook of much needed information. (HLW)