The Increase and Distribution of Mida Wheat

By
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EIGHT hundred and three farmers cooperated with the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station in the further increase of Mida wheat in 1944. Release and distribution of Mida last spring totaled 15,315 bushels. Under the Experiment Station policy, respecting the release of new varieties, Mida was released to selected growers under an optional contract. Under this contract the Experiment Station has retained an option covering 75 percent of the increase obtained the first year. This option is for the purpose of aiding other North Dakota farmers to obtain seed for 1945, if they so desire, and at a price fair to both buyer and seller.

Many requests for Mida seed have been received since the 1944 harvest and others are coming in daily. These requests are being filled by drawing on one of the contract growers under the option, one usually located near where the applicant resides. From reports of the 1944 increase now on hand it is estimated that about 250,000 bushels of Mida seed will be available for sowing in 1945. A considerable portion of this has already been allotted for 1945 sowing. Since the demand for this seed is large, it has seemed advisable to limit applications to 60 bushels. The production of Mida expected in 1945 should be sufficient to allow any one to obtain seed for 1946 sowings and in about the quantity desired. Therefore, the redistributions now made, and the increase obtained therefrom, will not be under contract.

Mida Performance in 1944

The factors which bring out large differences in yield among varieties were usually not present in 1944. There was no stem and only slight leaf rust injury, moisture was plentiful and temperatures during the ripening season usually moderate. Root rots, and stem and head blights, however, were more common than usual. Since all varieties seemingly are more or less susceptible to these diseases, all varieties presumably were affected to about the same degree. Where root rots were present, and especially in the more wet areas of the State, Mida appeared to carry its full share of this disease and similarly showed much "black chaff", also "black joint", a disease or condition very noticeable in many fields, yet the effects of which are not well understood.

In the variety trials at the several experiment stations in the State, Mida in 1944 ranked with the top yielding varieties as can be shown in the accompanying table. From these and earlier observations Mida is regarded as having good resistance to both stem and leaf rust, also to covered smut, tho susceptible to loose smut. Mida too, has shown strong straw, good yielding ability and the grain averages high in test weight and has satisfactory milling and baking qualities.

Farmers cooperating in the increase of Mida this year and observing its behavior under their farm conditions, generally commented favorably on its satisfactory yield, strong straw, resistance to weathering and favorable test

How Mida Compared With Other Varieties in Yield in 1944 at Five Experiment Stations in North Dakota

Variety	Yield in bushels per acre				
	Fargo	Edgeley	Langdon	Dickinson	Williston
Thatcher	22.4	28.4	31.2	20.2	49.6
Rival	20.9	29.1	35.7	22.6	44.6
Pilot	20.9	32.6	33.7	20.0	52.0
Vesta	22.1	34.3	30.7	20.1	50.9
Regent	19.5	26.9	34.0	19.7	43.2
Renown	21.2	25.7	30.7	.....	.....
Mida	23.1	31.6	35.8	23.4	44.9

weight. While some commented favorably on its "easy" handling in harvesting and threshing, others who rely on straight combining as their method of harvesting, pointed out a tendency to shatter if left standing too long. While shattering probably was more severe this year than usual, because of an abundance of rain and a greatly delayed harvest, farmers growing Mida for the first time should have this shattering tendency in mind and thus handle their crop so as to avoid any unnecessary loss. Mida, however, does hold its kernel more tightly than Rival.

From the observations available so far it seems reasonable to conclude that Mida will have its largest place in the eastern two-thirds of the State and elsewhere as a replacement for Rival and perhaps other bearded wheats now grown. (For earlier comparisons and a more complete discussion of Mida wheat see North Dakota Experiment Station Circular 68, March 1944).

Any one wishing to obtain seed from some source located in his county should apply to the county agent in his county. In counties where there is no county agent applications may be made directly to the Department of Agronomy, Agricultural Experiment Station, State College Station, Fargo. Applications made now while the supply is adequate will best assure that the order can be filled.

Tumbling mustard, often called Jim Hill mustard, contains 32.6 percent oil of an iodine value of 151, according to an analysis of a sample from American Falls, Idaho, made by W. H. Goss and J. E. Ruckman of the Northern Regional Research Laboratory, Peoria, Ill. The analysis is based on a sample containing 5.46 percent moisture. The air-dry oil-free cake contained 7.22 percent nitrogen. (Reported in OIL & SOAP, August, 1944). (H.L.W.)

"The enrichment of from 50 to 75 percent of all family flour and bakery bread with thiamine, niacin, and iron was brought about late in 1942 through actions which included recommendations of the board and the committee on cereals". (From the Report of the National Research Council for the year July 1, 1942—June 30, 1943, Division of Biology and Agriculture.) The board mentioned is the Food and Nutrition Board of the Division of Biology and Agriculture. The National Research Council was organized by the National Academy of Science as the result of an executive order issued by President Woodrow Wilson on May 11, 1918 during World War No. 1. The National Academy of Sciences had its national charter approved by President Abraham Lincoln on March 3, 1863. (H.L.W.)