

# Ransom Oats

By T. E. Stoa<sup>1</sup>

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station announces the release of a new early-ripening oat named Ransom. This new oat, released for farm increase in 1956, is intended primarily for areas of our state where earliness and maximum resistance to stem rust are desired.

Ransom (C.I. 5927) is a selection from the cross, Sac x Hajira-Joanette, made at the Iowa Experiment Station in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. It is one of several lines tested in the early generations at the North Dakota Experiment Station and shows considerable promise because of its superior resistance to stem rust.

Ransom is an early yellow oat with resistance to the races of stem rust now prevalent in this area, including races 7, 7A and 8, and resistance to all other known races including race 6, reported to be on the increase in other oat growing areas. Ransom is not a high yielding oat, but with races 7 and 8 now prevalent in this area and the possible increase of races 6 and 7A, this new oat is expected to serve a need in areas where earliness and maximum resistance to stem rust are needed. In North Dakota this is most likely to be in the southeastern counties.

Ransom is not now recommended for areas where maximum rust resistance is not needed, or areas where later ripening varieties, capable of yielding better, can be grown. Garry, a somewhat later variety than Ransom with equally good stem rust resistance, should be better suited to the more northern counties where high rust protection is desired. Rodney should do well in that area also, although it lacks in resistance to race 7A, a race not now prevalent but which may increase.

Ransom is moderately resistant to crown (leaf) rust and smut, moderately susceptible to septoria (black stem), has fairly strong straw, ripens about the same time as Andrew and produces oats of good test weight.

The 1956 growing season, with an early summer drouth and high June temperatures, will appear to have been more unfavorable to the early ripening varieties than to the slower developing and later ones. Rains which occurred in late June and through July, together with moderate ripening temperatures, are almost certain to have benefited the late varieties more than those which had reached the heading stage before the beneficial rains came. Stem rust has not been a factor influencing variety yield differences in 1956.

Growers in southeastern North Dakota, where Ransom is being increased, who are interested in obtaining some seed for sowing in 1957, should contact their county extension agent to learn the sources of this seed in their county.

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