



Washington State University

College of Agriculture

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIGH-YIELDING WHEAT VARIETY RELEASED

PULLMAN, Wash.--Stephens, a new high-yielding soft white winter wheat variety has been released by the Washington State University Agricultural Experiment Station, along with those of Oregon and Idaho, and the Agricultural Research Service-USDA.

The new variety is semi-dwarf with white chaff and stiff straw. According to Dr. Ken Morrison, WSU Extension Agronomist, Stephens is expected to replace Hyslop and McDermid in Western Washington and in the Walla Walla region, where winter injury is usually not a problem.

In tests conducted both in Washington and Oregon, Stephens has consistently outyielded Hyslop and McDermid. In the Regional Uniform Winter White Wheat Nursery, Stephens was near the highest yielder for three consecutive years.

It has good resistance to stripe rust and common bunt and has moderate resistance to mildew. The new variety also appears to have some tolerance to Cercospora foot rot, which is important for early fall seeding and erosion control. However, it is susceptible to dwarf bunt, flag smut and snow mold.

Stephens has also received excellent ratings in milling quality tests. It has been shown to be equal or superior to other varieties already in production.

(more)

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Stephens was developed at the Hyslop Agronomy Farm near Corvallis, Oregon, in 1965, from a cross between a semi-dwarf and a French variety.

Seed is available through the Washington State Crop Improvement Association this year for seed increase purposes only.

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