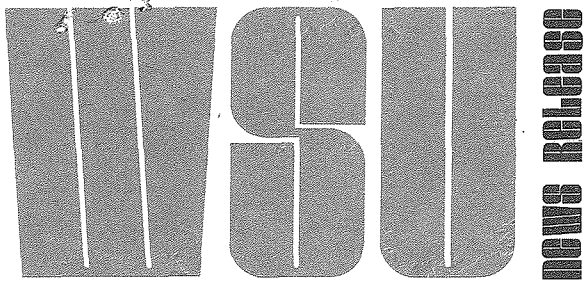


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Washington State University

College of Agriculture

Seth Beckerman--335-2511
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WAMPUM WHEAT AVAILABLE TO GROWERS

PULLMAN, Wash.--A new variety of hard red spring wheat, Wampum, has been released for production in Washington and Idaho. The original cross was made more than 11 years ago by Washington State University scientist Dr. Cal Konzak, and has been tested for the past three years in western regional and Washington nurseries.

Wampum was developed jointly by WSU and the USDA, with the University of Idaho joining in the release.

The new variety is expected to replace Wared, Borah, and Sawtell for irrigated plantings in the Columbia Basin. In dryland tests, Wampum has been competitive with other hard red spring wheats.

Wampum is a mid-season, medium-tall variety with light tan chaff. The heads are awned. It is taller than Wared when grown under irrigation, but has stiff straw.

Wampum has better resistance to local races of stripe rust than Wared, Sawtell or Borah, but is susceptible to local races of leaf rust in the seedling stage and moderately resistant in the adult stages. Recent tests at Manhattan, Kansas have shown Wampum to be resistant to the races of Hessian fly present in Washington.

(more)

WAMPUM WHEAT AVAILABLE TO GROWERS--add one

Tests at the USDA Western Wheat Quality Laboratory in Pullman have shown Wampum to have satisfactory milling and baking properties, with slightly greater protein strength than Wared.

The Washington State Crop Improvement Association will maintain breeder and foundation seedstocks of Wampum. Approximately 10,000 pounds of foundation seed will be available next spring, as well as registered seed. Seed requests should be sent to the Washington State Crop Improvement Association, N. 513 Front St., Yakima, WA 98901.