

Triticale Merlin

Merlin triticale is characterized by awnless heads, and a facultative, "intermediate", growth habit (maturity intermediate between spring and winter types). Its growth rate as measured by the Zadok's plant development scale is about equal to that of Dirkwin wheat. Compared to triticale "118" and other spring-type triticale grown for forage harvest in the soft-dough stage, Merlin reaches heading approximately three to five weeks later.

The juvenile plant growth of Merlin is semiprostrate. Its color at boot stage is blue green, with waxy leaves. The flag leaf is twisted, and leaf carriage is recurved. Auricles are colorless or white. Heads are awnless, fusiform, and middense, with glumes that are slightly pubescent, white, long and narrow, with oblique shoulder and acute beak. Seed is wrinkled, elliptical, and amber, having a brush that is large and midlong.

Variety Description
Merlin (RSI Experimental Number 60042) Forage Triticale

Triticale variety "Merlin" (RSI Expt. 60042) is a hexaploid, awnless, mid-maturity, facultative triticale developed for spring-planted forage production in the northern U.S., and fall-planted forage production in the southwest U.S.. Merlin is approximately 20 cm shorter, and heads out approximately four days earlier, than TRICAL® Brand 2700, the most widely used spring-planted forage triticale in the U.S.. Most significantly, Merlin is awnless while 2700 is awned.

Awn length can be affected by environmental conditions and can differ among tillers and genetically identical plants, but Merlin is notable among commercially available spring-planted triticale in having a high proportion of spikes that have no awn longer than 1 cm under all production conditions in which it has been observed to date. The awnless trait of Merlin is conferred by patented awn-inhibitor genes, U.S. Patent Number 5,969,219.

Juvenile plant growth of Merlin is semiprostrate. At boot stage, plant color is blue green and leaves have a waxy bloom and are recurved. Auricles are colorless or white. The neck is wavy and has a heavy covering of hairs. Glumes are white, slightly pubescent, long, narrow, with oblique shoulder and acute beak. Seed is elliptical and wrinkled.

It has been noted during multiplication that some awnleted variants can be present at a frequency no greater than 0.5%.

Seed multiplication, retaining seed from crop production, and using seed for plant breeding are all prohibited without authorization from Resource Seeds, Inc..