

BENSON SPRING OATS

Applicant: Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station
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Description

Benson spring oats is a selection from the cross Portage/Burnett. It is derived from an F_6 bulk, the progeny being advanced by single seed descent in previous generations. Reselection based on plant progeny rows was done in the F_{15} generation. Prior to naming, it was identified as Mn 71211.

Benson is a medium height and maturity variety with a small, narrow panicle. The leaves are light green in color and somewhat droopy. The stems are medium sized, hairless at the upper nodes, and yellow when mature. A ligule is present. The hull is cream-colored and fluoresces under ultraviolet light. Spikelet separation is by semiabscission and the rachilla is long and narrow.

The primary area of adaptation for the variety is the drier areas of the Upper Midwest where lodging of oats is less of a problem. Classes of seed of Benson shall be foundation, registered and certified. Certified seed was available for sale in 1980.

Application has been made to the Plant Variety Protection Office for Benson.