

Common White Winter Varieties

Orfed, just recently released to farmers, is resistant to nearly all races of common bunt and also appears to have some resistance to dwarf bunt. It has a white kernel of medium size which is semi-hard to soft in texture, depending upon where grown. It has a high test weight. The variety has a medium long head, is bearded, and is highly resistant to shattering. The plant is medium in height, and has stiff straw. It is late maturing when sown in the spring but matures early when fall-sown. Because of its earliness in fall seedings, it may be as suitable as Rex on shallow soils and in areas where hot winds often damage later maturing varieties. Plants in the tillering stage of growth appear to be considerably less winter hardy than are younger plants. Therefore, Orfed should not be seeded too early in the fall. In late seedings it appears to be as winter hardy as Hybrid 128 and Rex. However, winter killed portions of a field can be reseeded to the same variety in the spring. The milling and baking qualities appear to be satisfactory. It has not been tested a sufficient number of times to determine the conditions under which it can be grown to the best advantage.

Rex when first distributed, consisted of a mixture of plants which varied noticeably in height. New seed of Rex which has been released recently by the various experiment stations is pure and uniform, and was formerly known as Rex-1 or Rex M-1. The old Rex has not yielded as satisfactorily as the new Rex. All data of Rex in this bulletin were taken on Rex-1. It is medium tall and is resistant to lodging, shattering, and most races of bunt, including dwarf bunt. It matures early, and for this reason usually has a fairly high test weight. On pea ground and in early fall seeding the yields have not always been as satisfactory as in other seedings. Rex is one of the hardest varieties to thresh satisfactorily, especially when damp. The kernels crack easily, thereby limiting cylinder speed and concave settings required to thresh out all the spikelets. Millers find that it usually mills much less easily and rapidly than most other varieties.

Fortyfold is susceptible to bunt and shattering, and is a low yielder. Very little typical Fortyfold has been found in the so-called Fortyfold area in recent years. It has been replaced mainly by Golden, which is usually marketed as Fortyfold. Other soft white varieties which have been found in the Fortyfold area are No Name, Shatterproof (both the fuzzy and smooth chaff types), Rex, and Requa. All of these varieties, except No Name and Rex, have grain which is similar to that of Fortyfold. Consequently, the label "Fortyfold" on a grain sample may mean any one of several varieties.

Golden, a selection from Fortyfold, has increased in popularity during recent years in the Fortyfold area. It is superior to Fortyfold in yield and resistance to shattering. However, it does shatter easily and should be harvested as soon as possible. Golden produces a soft white grain which is needed by the milling and baking industry until it can be replaced by something more suitable. The plants are medium tall and fairly resistant to lodging. It appears to be approximately as winter hardy and as susceptible to bunt as Hybrid 128.