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Twin Is New Spring Wheat

Pullman, Wash. _____—A new soft white spring wheat has been named and released cooperatively by the Washington, Idaho and Oregon agricultural experiment stations and the Crop Research Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, Dr. Lowell W. Rasmussen said today.

Rasmussen, acting director of the Washington State University Agricultural Research Center, said the new wheat is called "Twin," and in eastern Washington has had a two to five bushel increase over Marfed, the recommended spring wheat variety.

"Seed for the new variety now is being increased by the Washington State Crop Improvement Association, and limited amounts of seed should be available to commercial Washington growers for spring seeding in 1972," he said.

"Twin has been tested at several Washington locations under dryland conditions and under irrigation. Twin did better under irrigation at test plots at Ellensburg than Marfed did, but did not do as well as Marfed at Othello," he said.

Twin also has a lower test weight than Marfed, has a shorter straw than Marfed and is more lodge resistant than Marfed. Testing at the Western Wheat Quality Laboratory at WSU has shown Twin to have satisfactory quality for both milling and baking, Rasmussen said.

"In addition, Twin is resistant to prevalent races of stripe and stem rust, but the variety is susceptible to leaf rust and powdery mildew. Twin is an awnless wheat of medium maturity, is white-glumed and has moderately stiff straw."

Twin was developed by Dr. Donald Sunderman, USDA research agronomist working at the University of Idaho's branch experiment station at Aberdeen, Rasmussen added.

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