

2014 Wheat Variety Performance & Recommendations

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These recommendations are based on tests conducted in North Carolina in 2012-13 and 2013-14. We collect yield and test weight data at every location, and we collect heading date information each year. Pest resistance information is updated whenever possible. Our rankings are not always the same as those reported in the OVT, because 1) we may use additional tests not available to the OVT, and 2) we may exclude some locations used in the OVT.

Plant At Least Three Varieties: The “Above-Average Yielding” varieties are good first choices for 2014 (see Table 1). Additionally, the “Average Yielding Varieties” are likely to produce acceptable yields but may not win a yield contest. To help with disease management, make a note of which varieties you plant where.

Avoid Spring Freeze Damage. Early-heading varieties are the most likely to be damaged by spring freezes. Conversely, late-heading varieties are likely to avoid freeze damage. To reduce the risk of yield loss due to freeze damage, plant no more than one early heading variety, and at least one late-heading variety. Late-heading varieties yield best when planted early and should be the first ones planted. Early-heading varieties should be planted on the late side and so should be the last ones drilled in.

Reduce the Risk of Head Scab. Head scab can cause yield losses, low test weight, and load rejections due to high vomitoxin any year in any part of NC. The best way to minimize this risk is to plant varieties rated “MR” to head scab (Table 1). If weather makes scab risk high, fungicides may be recommended at flowering. However, even if selected, timed, and applied correctly, they can only reduce scab damage, not eliminate it. Consequently, we recommend mainly planting varieties rated “MR” to scab. See www.smallgrains.ncsu.edu/head-scab.html for more information.

Maximize Yield By Managing Powdery Mildew or Leaf Rust. Research has shown that when powdery mildew or leaf rust is developing, the combination of varieties rated “R” or “MR” (in Table 1) **and** a fungicide application leads to the highest yields. Selecting varieties with resistance to these diseases is always a good idea. See www.smallgrains.ncsu.edu/video-library.html for more information about these diseases. (Note that these diseases are less common in the Piedmont.)

Are Soil Virus Diseases Important? In 2013, we saw 14% lower yields for varieties rated “S” compared to those rated “MR” for wheat spindle-streak mosaic virus in an infested field. Once a field has soil virus symptoms, it is important to plant varieties rated MR or R to that particular virus.

More Information on Variety Selection or Disease Management? Check the *Small Grain Production Guide*, the small grain production website (www.smallgrains.ncsu.edu), or call your local county Extension office. Information on variety height can be found at www.ncovt.com.

Table 1. 2013 & 2014 Wheat Variety Performance

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Wheat Variety ¹	Test Weight ²	Heading Date	Pest Resistance To ⁴									
			Powdery Mildew	Leaf Rust	Head Scab	Hessian Fly Biotype-L	SNB ³	Soilborne Mosaic Virus	Spindle Streak Virus	Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus	Stripe Rust	Tan Spot
Above Average Yielding												
AgMX 413	-	late	MS	MS	MR/MS	Poor			MR	MR		MR
AgMX 415	+	late	MS	MR	MR	Fair			MR	MR		MR
Beck's 113	+	late	R	MS	MR/MS	Good			MR	MR		MS
Beck's 135	+	late	MS	MR	MS	Good			MR	MR		MR
DG Shirley	-	late	R	MR	MS	Poor	S		MR	MR	MR	S
FthrStn VA258	-	med	MR	R	MS	Poor	MR		MR	MR	S	S
P 26R10	+	late	S	MS	MS	Excellent			R	R	MS	MR
P 26R20	+	late	MS	MR	S	Good	MS		MR	MR	S	MR
P 26R53	ave	late	MS	MS	MR/MS	Fair			MR	MR	MS	MS
SS 8404	+	med	MS	R	S	Fair	MS		MS	MS	MR	S
SS 8500	+	late	MS	MR	S	Fair	MS		MR	MR	MR	S
USG 3120	+	early	MR	R	MS	Good	MR		MS	S	MR	S
USG 3251	ave	late	MR	MS	MS	Fair			MR	MR		MR
USG 3404	-	late	MS	MS	MR	Excellent			MR	R		MR
USG 3523	ave	late	MS	S	MR	Good			R	MR		MR
USG 3993	+	late	MS	MR	MR	Fair			MR	MR		MR
Above Average Yielding But Less Consistent												
P 26R41	ave	late	MR	MR	S	Excellent			MR	MR	MS	MR
USG 3201	+	late	MS	MR	MR/MS	Fair	MS		MR	MR	MR	MS
Average Yielding												
AgMX 434	-	late	S	S	MR/MS	Good			MR	MR		MR
AgMX 438	-	late		S		Fair			MR	MR		S
AGS 2035	+	early	MS	R	MS	Good	MS		S	MS	MR	MR
Beck's 120	-	med	MR	MR	MR/MS	Good			MR	R		MR
DG 9012	+	late	MS	MR	MR	Good	S		MS	MS	MR	MS
DG 9223	-	late	S	S	MR	Poor			MR	MR		S
Oakes	+	med	S	MS	MR	Poor	MR		S	MS	MS	MS
P 26R12	+	late	MS	S	S	Good	MS		MR	MR	MR	MS
Prog 185	ave	late	S	MS	MS	Good	MR		MR	MR	MS	S
Prog 870	-	late	MS	MS	MS	Poor			MR	MR	MR	MR
SS 8340	+	late	MS	MS	MR	Poor	MR		MR	MR	MS	MS
SY 9978	-	late		MS		Excellent	S		MR	MR	MR	MS
SY Harrison	-	late		S		Poor			R	MR	MR	MR
USG 3438	-	late	MS	MR	MS	Poor	MR		MR	R	MR	MR
USG 3612	-	late	MS		MS	Fair			MR			
Below Average Yielding												
AgMX 427	-	late	MR	S	MR	Poor			MR	MS		MS
AGS 2026	-	early	MS	R	MS	Excellent	S		MS	S	MR	R
AGS 2038	+	late	MS	R	S	Good			MR	MS		MR
DG Yorktown	ave	med	MR	R	MR/MS	Good			MR	MS	S	MS
Jamestown	+	early	R	R	MR	Fair	MS		MR	S	MR	MR
Merl	+	late	R	MR	S	Poor	MS		MR	MR	S	MS
NC Cape Fear	ave	early	R	MS	MR/MS	Fair	MR		MS	MS	MR	S
NC Yadkin	+	late	MR	MR	MR	Poor	MS		MR	R	MS	MS
P 25R32	ave	late	MS	MS	MR	Good	MR		MR	R	MS	MR
Prog 117	-	med	S	S	MR	Poor	S		S	MS	MS	S
Prog 125	-	early	S	MS	MR	Fair	S		R	MS	MR	S
Prog 357	-	late	S	S	MS	Fair			R	R	MR	MR
SS 8412	+			R		Good			MR	MR		S
SS 8870	-	late	R		MR	Poor			MR			

1. Listed alphabetically within groups; AGS = AgSouth Genetics; AgMX = AgriMAXX; DG = Dyna-Gro; FthrStn = Featherstone; P = Pioneer; Prog = Progeny; SS = Southern States; SY = Syngenta; USG = UniSouth Genetics.

2. For test weight "+", "ave", and "-" stand for above average, average, and below average, respectively.

3. SNB stands for Stagonospora nodorum blotch.

4. S, MS, MR, MR/MS, & R stand for Susceptible, Moderately Susceptible, Moderately Resistant, Intermediate between moderately resistant and moderately susceptible, & Resistant, respectively.