

Prelude is a variety of wheat introduced for a special purpose. It is the earliest variety of wheat known in Western Canada, ripening at Brandon about eleven days before Marquis. It is intended to make wheat growing possible in districts that are too frosty to grow Marquis successfully. It is not recommended for any district that can grow Marquis or Red Fife, as it yields only about two-thirds as much as Marquis, it is bearded and it shells easily.

Bluestem is the variety most commonly grown in parts of Minnesota and Dakota, and there are districts in Manitoba where it has some popularity. It produces more straw than Red Fife and, consequently, has the appearance of being more productive. It is in favour especially in light or worn-out land. It is doubtful, however, whether it really yields better even under these conditions, the better appearance being due chiefly to a more vigorous growth of straw. It is later than either Red Fife or Marquis, and as the wheat is scarcely equal to these varieties for milling purposes, it is not recommended. Where it appears to be the best kind, soil treatment that would ensure a better crop would be preferable to choosing a variety that is supposed to be suitable for poor land.

Egyptian King or Alaska wheat is mentioned only to be condemned. It is a peculiar looking variety with heads divided into small branches. Most fantastic claims have been made in regard to its yielding power and it has been sold at most extravagant prices by unscrupulous promoters. The flour from this wheat is not at all suited to ordinary bread-making. A spread of the growing of this variety would be disastrous to the Canadian wheat business. It is to be strongly condemned.

OATS.

Among the varieties most commonly grown in Manitoba, and most frequently discussed, are the following: Banner, Abundance, Newmarket, Victory, Gold Rain, Ligowo and Garton's No. 22. For early varieties, Daubeney and Orloff are often recommended.

Banner has been the standard variety of oats in Manitoba for many years. It is unsurpassed in yielding power and does well on all kinds of land. Its average yield per acre for the last five years on the Brandon Experimental Farm is 102 bushels, 17 pounds. Being comparatively thin-hulled, it is more valuable for feed than heavy-hulled varieties. It is highly recommended.

Gold Rain is a yellow oat which has equalled Banner in yield in our comparative tests; it has ripened slightly earlier. It also has good quality of grain and good strength of straw. Its yellow colour detracts slightly from its appearance, but it is a very desirable variety.

Ligowo is an excellent variety of white oats, very nearly equal to Banner, but standing just below it in yield.

Newmarket is a popular old variety of oats which has yielded very nearly as well as the best. It produces a plumper grain than Banner, but is not quite so thin in the hull.

Victory is a newer variety of white oat that has met with much favour in some districts. Possibly under some conditions it may excel, but in our tests thus far it has stood a little lower in yield than the best, though the difference is really not decisive. It has good quality of grain and straw.

Abundance or Regenerated Abundance has won more prizes at seed fairs and grain shows than any other variety. This gave it a great popularity for a few years.