

Reports from the Fall Wheat Fields of Ontario.

Lambton, E. R.

JOHN DOWNHAM, Wisbeach:—I sowed one bushel of early White Leader and threshed 24 bushels, and consider it a first-class variety in every respect. I also sowed two ounces of Genesee Giant and reaped 11 lbs. 11 oz. of excellent wheat. It is the finest variety, I think, I ever have seen; it ripened twelve days earlier than Red Clawson or other sorts.

HEBER RAWLINGS, Manchester:—The earliest and hardest wheat here. Winter Fyfe is rusty; American Bronze vigorous, but rusty; White Clawson and Democrat are fair crops; Velvet Chaff and Garfield no good here.

Huron, W. R.

J. N. KERNIGHAN, Benmiller:—I am very sorry that I have been unable to reply to your letter of the 13th sooner, but have been very busy. All the fall wheat in the district promises an abundant yield, being heavy in the straw and has also filled well. The average yield will probably be about 28 bushels per acre. The principal varieties sown are the Democrat, Scott, Clawson, Surprise and Manchester. Of these the Scott has done the best, having stood the winter well. The grain is plump. The Early Red Clawson will be second in yield, but being a new variety but little of it has been sown. The old Clawson promises well, although having a slight tendency to rust. The Democrat looks well, but is not as heavy a yielder as the other varieties.

Bruce County.

WM. BROCKIE, Pinkerton:—Reports Red Clawson a very good variety, standing the winter well. American Bronze later than the Red Clawson, much injured by rust.

Bruce, E. R.

JAS. TOLTON, Walkerton:—The fall wheat in this district is very valuable. On the heavy clay lands it is generally poor, but on light and medium soils where it was sown at the proper time, that is, either the latter part of August or beginning of September, the wheat is good if land was well prepared. Some fields from present appearances promise to yield about 35 bushels per acre, but think the average will be about 25 bushels. So far as I know, the varieties chiefly sown are Garfield, Golden Cross, or Volunteer, Democrat, and Canadian Velvet Chaff. The only new kinds of Fall wheat that I have heard of are Surprise and American Bronze. I have not seen the Surprise, but I have the Bronze; it has been grown here in a small way for three years and has done well. It is a medium-sized red berry, white chaff, stiff straw, but not as early as either Golden Cross or Garfield; it appears to have a square large head, and to stand the winter well.

Middlesex, N. R.

J. W. JOHNSON, Sylvan:—Jones' Winter Fyfe and Red Clawson are reliable in this section. New Red Wonder is a new variety, which is giving first-rate results. Grown in the same field, with Democrat it was much superior. I think it one of the best wheats I have seen this year. I have grown Red Clawson for two years; last year it yielded 40 bushels to the acre; from all appearances it will be as well if not better this year; I think it a very reliable sort; with me it has stood the winter well. I think it is as good or better than any sort sown in the section.

Farmer's Name.	Township.	Variety of Wheat.	Soil, &c.	Date of Sowing.	Date of Harvesting.	Condition of straw.	Yield per acre.	Remarks.
Mr. A. Younge.	Blenheim.	Can. Velvet Chaff and Surprise mixed.	Clay—pig manure applied.	Sept. 10, 16.	July 17	Slightly rusted.	30 bush.	1 bushel of Surprise was sown east and west, and 1 bushel of Can. Velvet Chaff north and south. A large amount of smut.
Mr. W. Murray, (Dep. Reeve).	"	Can. Velvet Chaff.	Clay loam—manure on part, rest clover sod plowed under.	" 4.	" 17	Slightly rusted.	15 "	
Mr. T. McKay.	"	Surprise.	Clay loam—clover sod, plowed under and manured.	" 4.	" 17	Bright.	25 "	Damaged by Hessian fly. Splendid sample.
"	"	Golden Cross.	"	" 22.	" 20	Bright.	35 "	
"	"	Surprise.	"	" 3.	" 21	"	20 "	Injured by Hessian fly.
"	"	Can. Velvet Chaff.	"	" 3.	" 21	Considerably rusted.	15 "	Plenty of smut.
Mr. J. Spiers.	"	Manchester.	Clay loam—manured.	" 5, 11.	" 19	Considerably rusted.	22 "	The wheat sown on the 5th Sept. was cut after that sown on the 11th. Fine sample.
"	"	Golden Cross.	"	" 6.	" 19	Slightly rusted.	25 "	
Mr. McGaw.	"	Mich. Amber.	Clay—fallow manured.	" 6.	" 19	Slightly rusted.	25 "	Partly winter-killed.
Mr. W. Cockburn.	"	Mich. Amber.	Clay fallow manured.	" 8.	" 21	Slightly rusted.	20 "	
Mr. J. Wilson.	"	Surprise.	Clay—no manure, previous crop barley.	" 10.	" 22	Slightly rusted.	5 "	Partly winter-killed and damaged by Hessian fly.
"	"	Amer. Bronze.	"	" 10.	" 22	Bright.	25 "	
"	"	Early Red Clawson.	"	" 1.	" 18	"	22 "	
Mr. Thos. Elmes, (Grain Examiner and Medallist).	Burford.	Golden Cross.	Clay loam—fallow	" 2.	" 17	Bright.	22 "	Best variety; stood winter well.
"	"	Early Red Clawson.	"	" 2.	" 18	Slightly rusted.	19 "	Second best.
"	"	Jones' Winter Fyfe.	"	" 2.	" 19	Rusted.	8 "	Very bad.
"	"	Surprise.	"	" 4.	" 19	"	14 "	Sample shrunk.

Mr. Kyte, Reeve (Blenheim), has not yet threshed. His crop of wheat is Michigan Amber, and he expects a yield of 35 bushels to the acre. Sown 1st September; harvested 18th July.

Mr. Edmiston (Blenheim), sowed Dawson. Expects 20 bushels to the acre. Sown September 15; harvested July 18.

Mr. Hewitt (Burford). Soil, sandy loam. Sowed ten acres of Surprise and ten acres of Garfield. Seven acres of the Surprise was plowed under in the spring; the remainder is poor.

Oxford.

WM. GOODGER, Woodstock:—All varieties of fall wheat in this section are more or less affected by rust. Varieties chiefly sown are Early Red Clawson and Surprise, and appear to be about equal in merit. I have tried the White Leader, and think it a good wheat.

Oxford, N. R.

H. BOLLERT, Cassel:—In this neighbourhood all varieties of fall wheat are unusually good and plump. There is very little difference in the varieties; if anything, the Early Red Clawson gives the best yield. I think that the average yield per acre will be between 28 and 30 bushels per acre. No new varieties have been tested in this vicinity, but all the older sorts are grown, viz., Golden Cross, Reliable, Democrat, Manchester, Early Red Clawson and Garfield.

GEORGE RICE:—We have many varieties grown in this section. Probably the best red wheat as to hardness and good quality is the Delhi-Mediterranean hybrid. We have grown this several years and find it very reliable; it is bearded, red chaff, straw stiff, tolerably free from rust, and last year tested 62 to 63. Manchester, also a red wheat, has done well, but not in favor with the millers. Red Clawson has also done very well. All wheat here is more or less rusted. Don't see as one variety of these red wheats has done any better than the other as regards rust. Of the white wheats we have the Velvet Chaff, White Chaff (velvety), also the Surprise White Chaff (smooth), two distinct varieties; I think they will yield big on a suitable soil, as their heads are large, but consider them rather tender as to growth, and when winter-killed shrink very badly.

Middlesex Co.

J. D. THOMPSON, Derwent:—Last year out of six or seven varieties the Eureka or Surprise winter wheat did by far the best with us, but this season it was completely distanced by the Early Red Clawson, which stood the winter better, matured earlier and filled well, the berry being plump and bright.

J. McPHERSON:—Sowed 1 bushel of White Leader and threshed 18 bushels. The sample was good. He reports this sort a week later than Red Clawson, which he thinks as good a variety as any. Jones' Squarehead yielded at the rate of 26 bushels per acre with him. Sample good.

Middlesex, E. R.

R. H. HARDING, Thorndale:—Generally speaking, fall wheat is not up to the average in this section. All varieties are more or less rusted. The American Bronze appears to be the leading new variety; it is comparatively free from rust and smut and stands up well, where nearly all other varieties have crinkled down. The Golden Cross (or Volunteer) is well spoken of. Jones' Winter Fyfe has not done very well, nor the Velvet Chaff. The Garfield will return a fair sample. The Early Red Clawson is badly crinkled down and shrunk. The Democrat and Scott will give fair returns.

A. B. SCOTT:—The wheat in this vicinity, from present appearances, promises to be about an average crop, yielding from 25 to 30 bushels per acre. The varieties sown most are, Manchester, Volunteer, Golden Cross, Red Clawson, Garfield and Velvet Chaff, the three first named giving the best returns.

Middlesex, S. R.

G. W. FERGUSON:—From what I can learn, the wheat will be a fair crop, so far, at least, as quantity is concerned. Some estimate their crop at 25 bushels per acre, and some at 20 and so on, but some pieces I have seen look very thin, as if the grub had worked on it in the fall. The grub did a great deal of damage in parts of Southwold, and also in Westminster. A great number complain of their wheat being shrunken. The following varieties I find cultivated in this neighbourhood, and as to extent, in the order named:—Red Clawson, Golden Cross (some fine crops of the above two varieties), Democrat, Manchester. On low land Tasmania seems to succeed.

Brant, S. R.

D. G. HANMER:—In some portions of the county fall wheat was greatly damaged by ice in February and March. Many fields were plowed up and re-sown. Rust has also caused much damage. The average yield over this county will be light, not above 15 bushels per acre. The varieties chiefly cultivated here are, Manchester, Garfield, Surprise and Red Clawson. From information and observation I have no hesitation in pronouncing the Manchester the best variety. It has proved very hardy with us and yields well.

Brant, N. R.

R. S. STEPHENSON, Amstater:—I beg to report that the old Clawson is still doing well here, and is sown by a great many farmers. Among the newer kinds the Red Clawson is a very fine wheat, standing the winter well, and is a good wheat to yield. American Bronze is another promising variety, and will do well, I think. Wheat was winter-killed a good deal in this vicinity, but it is yielding well to the straw.

J. E. RUTANSON, Princeton:—I have much pleasure in forwarding you a report which I have received from several prominent farmers in this section of the country; can be thoroughly relied on:

Waterloo, N. R.

E. B. KOLB, Berlin:—Last fall I sowed three kinds of wheat: Surprise and Dawson's Golden Chaff I sowed on sandy loam, (summer-fallowed) in the first week in September. The Pool (the new wheat, red, long plump berry and beardless) I did not get until September 18. I sowed it on a piece of ground from which I had taken a crop of peas. Results: Surprise full of rust, suffered considerably from Hessian flies, and shelled out easily; Dawson suffered somewhat from Hessian fly, some rust and smut; both of these kinds averages 46 shocks to the acre (not yet threshed, however). Pool rust barely noticeable, grain large and plump, no Hessian fly, averaged nearly 51 shocks to the acre. Harvested the Pool first, Dawson second, and Surprise last. It is my intention to sow Pool wheat only, as it is the opinion of such millers as Mr. E. W. B. Snyder, M. P. P., and Wm. Snyder & Co., that it is an excellent wheat for milling and baking purposes; samples sent to them were tested and weighed 63 lbs. to the bushel. I might add, that the average yield of this wheat was 45 bushels to the acre in Michigan in 1881.

Northumberland, E. R.

ALEX. HUMF, Burnside:—Wheat in this section is scarcely an average crop. Summer-fallows will probably yield from 20 to 25 bushels per acre; stubble land, from about 10 to 18 bushels; some was badly winter-killed, but was seeded and had caught well, so was not plowed up. There is a larger acreage of the stubble land than the summer-fallow, consequently the yield will be about 18 bushels or less. The Surprise, Canadian Velvet Chaff and Red Clawson, together with the old Clawson, are the principal varieties, which no doubt are all familiar to you. The Surprise seems to give about the best satisfaction, with Red Clawson next.

JOHN B. STONE:—Wheat is promising, the sample will be fine on many farms. Velvet Chaff was extensively sown. Surprise is also a favorite. Golden Cross has proved a valuable wheat on heavy, rich soils; is not as liable to rust as either of the above-named sorts.

Ontario, S. R.

MR. ELMER LICK, Oshawa, writes:—Fall wheat does not produce a heavy yield in this section; the best pieces, so far as I have been able to learn, will not exceed 20 bushels per acre.

Peterborough, W. R.

J. W. LUCAS:—There have been no new varieties of fall wheat sown in this section. Garfield and Surprise have been sown for three years. Neither promise a heavy crop this year. Spring wheat is almost a failure. Will not average more than 5 or 6 bushels per acre. Six-rowed barley will be a very light crop; no two-rowed sown.

N. DAWSON:—Fall wheat is a good crop in this district this year; will average 25 bushels per acre at least. The principal varieties grown are the Surprise and Garfield; both kinds are good on clay land, and almost free from rust. I have tried Velvet Chaff wheat for two years, and find it liable to rust, though little hurt this year. The Velvet Chaff stands the winter best, and stands out well in the spring; but little of the old Clawson sown here now. The Surprise and Garfield are best liked in this district.

Peterborough.

MR. DAVIDSON:—The Surprise wheat I think the best in this neighborhood. Straw stiff and bright, grain plump, Canadian Velvet Chaff also good. The old Clawson is still sown, and compares favorably with the newer sorts. The Golden Cross is little known here, but where sown is very promising. It stands up well and promises a good yield.

Prescott.

D. P. L. CAMPBELL, Vanleek Hill:—For a number of years fall wheat has not been grown in this county. The only piece I know of is a quarter of an acre of Velvet Chaff, which will yield between 30 and 35 bushels per acre.

Renfrew.

JAMES MARTIN:—For a number of years fall wheat had not been sown in this county, as it rarely escapes being winter-killed. The few fields that were sown last year are very promising. Clawson is the variety most largely sown.

Building a Silo.

For the benefit of those who contemplate building a silo this autumn we give the following directions:—An important point in a silo is size. This can be estimated pretty closely by allowing one cubic foot of settled silage for each animal every day. For ten animals one should have not less than 1,000 cubic feet of silage, and as the silage should be fully 20 to 21 feet deep, we may expect 18 feet in depth of silage after settling. A pit 10 feet square, or 9 x 12 feet, and 20 to 21 feet deep, would be about right for ten animals. As the number of animals increase, increase the size of the silo, until you reach a pit about 10 x 20 or 15 or 16 feet square. Instead of building a single pit larger than this, unless one has a very large stock, it is better to build two or more pits.

A silo should have a good stone or brick foundation, going down into the ground two feet and coming above it one foot, and as much more as may be necessary to allow for filling in sufficiently to secure good drainage from the building. About ten inches below the surface of the ground put in a shelf of concrete extending out about a foot from the wall. This will prevent rats from getting into the silo by digging down along and under the wall. It is a good plan and not indispensable to anchor bolts in the foundation to come up through the sills and hold them in place. Use two thicknesses of two-inch joists for sills, breaking (or lapping) joints on corners. For small silos use 2 x 8 pieces for studding, and set them 12 to 16 inches from centres and back from the inner face of the wall one or two inches, as you use single or double lining on the inside of the silo. Cut no mortices in the sill, but instead nail on inch strip to sill six inches from inner edge and notch stud to fit, and spike them down. At an appropriate and convenient place omit one stud for doorway into silo. Or instead of the foregoing, having laid sills as specified, six feet above them lay another double course of joists same as the sills, thoroughly spiked together, and lapping at corners, and six feet above this another course, and at the top another. Instead of these put 2 x 4 studs placed 16 inches from centre, omitting one as before for doorway. Cover the outside first with any cheap lumber, then with building paper (tar board) and over all such siding as you may prefer. Line the inside with

Wellington.

W. WHITLAW, Guelph:—There is not a very large breadth of fall wheat grown here now, owing to the very low price last year and no prospect of it any better in future. The Chaff varieties sown in this district are the Surprise which seems to give the best satisfaction. A few days ago I tested the fall wheat plots at the Agricultural College, and after carefully going over the different lots I came to the conclusion that the three best varieties were the Surprise, the American Bronze, and Dawson's Golden Chaff. There is some very good old varieties, such as the Democrat, Clawson, both red and white. A great many other varieties are not adapted to this country.