

**Leading Varieties of Fall Wheat.**

It has been customary in past years for members of the ADVOCATE staff to visit a number of the best wheat-growing districts in order to obtain all the information possible relative to the varieties of fall wheat best suited to the different localities and soils.

With this object in view the present year more care than usual has been taken in this work. A few years ago it was comparatively easy to decide what to sow, for the simple reason that very few reliable varieties were obtainable. This is now changed; the difficulty lies in making a proper choice suitable to soil and locality.

Of the large number of varieties that are now grown, after two or more years' trial, those that are in every way reliable embrace less than a dozen sorts. These may be divided into two groups, first of which we may mention four new varieties of red wheat, originated by Mr. E. N. Jones, viz., American Bronze, Jones' Winter Fyfe, Early Red Clawson and Golden Cross; also the older and more generally known Manchester. The other group is white wheats, and include the Canadian Velvet Chaff, Jones' Square Head, Surprise, Democrat and Garfield. The three latter may be classed as amber wheats.

**AMERICAN BRONZE,**

the latest introduction among the red varieties, is one of the most promising for all sorts of soil that has come out for many years. It is a particularly strong grower, stiff in the straw and very free from rust. It has a handsome, bald red chaff; the grain is large and of good milling qualities.

**JONES' WINTER FYFE.**

Much has been written in favor of this wheat. It is a strong, vigorous grower, requiring less seed than perhaps any variety now grown, one bushel per acre on well-prepared land being abundance. The straw ranks among the best, and in stiffness we think is only exceeded by the last named. This wheat has a particularly handsome appearance when in full head. It has a bald velvet chaff that makes it appear late a week before it ripens, yet it ranks among the very earliest. The head is large and very close and full of a large number of grains, which are medium in size, and in quality is among the very best milling sorts, it having been claimed for it that in this particular it is equal to the Scotch Fyfe of Manitoba. In yielding powers it is quite equal to anything grown in sections where it proves suitable.

**EARLY RED CLAWSON**

is another that is giving general satisfaction. It is very handsome when growing. The straw is, perhaps, a shade less stiff than the last named. The grain is hard and has capital milling properties; a good head with bald red chaff.

**GOLDEN CROSS**

is a bearded red chaff with a good stiff straw, rather a short but thick head well filled with grain possessing good milling properties.

**MANCHESTER**

was introduced several years before any of the four already mentioned, coming at a time when a good variety of red wheat was badly needed. It has a good, stiff straw. However, the head is deficient and will not yield as well as those before mentioned.

Of the white varieties, the Canadian Velvet Chaff has become exceedingly popular. It has proved very hardy, a luxuriant grower, and heavy yielder. The head is large and well filled. It has a bald velvet chaff; the straw stands well.

**SURPRISE**

has good, stiff, bright straw, medium head, with white bald chaff. This wheat is a good yielding variety, but ranks as rather a soft white, light weighing sort.

**JONES' SQUARE HEAD,**

although older than some of the other varieties before mentioned, was first sown in small quantities in Ontario in the fall of 1890. Judging from appearances it should yield well. It is an amber white, with neat, compact head; grain a good size, and a stiff, bright straw.

**DEMOCRAT**

is an amber white wheat that is well known. It yielded heavily the first few years after its introduction, but is fast losing its vigor.

**GARFIELD**

is about the same as regards class. It is a good grower, fair yielder, hardy and reliable.

In the vicinity of London, which is a great fall wheat growing district, all the newer sorts are cultivated. Here the choice of red wheats is between American Bronze and Jones' Winter Fyfe, with Canadian Velvet Chaff and Jones' Square Head among the white. Surprise is popular with many, but for reasons given in another part of this article we cannot recommend it.

On the farm of Mr. R. Gibson, Delaware, American Bronze was very fine, while Jones' Winter Fyfe was badly hurt by being covered with water during the late freshet. The crop of straw was one of the heaviest we ever remember seeing. Two new English varieties were also grown by him. These were sent out by the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, both being hybrids of Carter's. One named Windsor Forest, a red wheat, is more promising than any English sort we have yet seen, although late, as all European wheats are when compared with standard Canadian kinds. It is well developed both in straw and head. A white wheat from the same source named The Queen, growing beside it, we did not think so highly of.

Mr. Robert McEwen, Byron, in the same locality, had Jones' Winter Fyfe and Canadian Velvet Chaff side by side. The former was badly lodged, the land on which this variety was grown having been treated with a heavy dressing of nitrate of soda besides farmyard manure, which accounted for its going down. In places where it was standing the berry was very fine and the head remarkably large. The Canadian Velvet Chaff was lodged in places, but on this part of the field no nitrate of soda had been used, the grain in this case being very fine and the crop heavy. Two English wheats had also been sown there, one a white and the other a red variety, but neither of them are early enough to be of any service at present.

On the farm of Shore Bros., White Oak, American Bronze and Winter Fyfe were exceedingly good, both standing well with large, well-filled heads. Of the latter a twenty-acre field promises to yield abundantly, the shocks standing very closely together.

On other farms in this vicinity the wheat crop is one of the most promising in many years, although the sample will not equal that of last season. The newer varieties have been largely grown and have proved superior to the older sorts in almost every instance, which shows that the best varieties of wheat, if the seed is not carefully selected each year, lose their vigor after being cultivated in one locality for many years.

On the trial plots of Mr. John S. Pearce, London's popular seedsman, a great many varieties were growing, the thorough preparation in this case having given wonderfully good results. Mr. Pearce believes in moving six inches of soil and mixing the whole thoroughly together, thereby insuring exactly the same conditions, without which it is impossible to arrive at a close conclusion regarding the comparative vigor and all-round utility of the different varieties.

American Bronze, Jones' Winter Fyfe, Early Red Clawson,—all were very heavy, and in all three the straw was perfectly free from rust, bright and beautiful, with the grain plump and heavy.

Canadian Velvet Chaff, Square Head and Surprise all showed well, the crop being heavy and thick.

A number of the better known sorts was also present, as also was a number of others we had not seen before.

On the farms of Messrs. Stephen and Joseph Weld, situated near Calder P.O., Middlesex Co., we found splendid crops of Advocate, Jones' Square Head, Early Red Clawson and American Bronze. All were very good, probably the American Bronze was a little the best, though Jones' Square Head was a wonderful crop.

**THE VARIETIES OF FALL WHEAT AS THEY APPEAR****AT THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE FARM, GUELPH.**

The experimental work in connection with all kinds of grain at this farm is being pushed more vigorously this season than ever. The fine appearance of the trial plots reflects great credit on the institution, and the benefit that may be derived from comparing the different varieties as they grow side by side is of great service to those who have the opportunity of seeing them.

Seventy two varieties were sown last fall on a high and rather exposed field, and yet, with but one exception, all stood the winter well and made a vigorous growth since.

Most of the best known and most promising varieties had been sown in duplicate plots in different parts of the field in order to form a better conclusion as to their merits. Experience shows the necessity of this, particularly in an extreme season like the present, an excess of rainfall having a very different effect where there is such diversity of soil as there is on this farm. This was proved by a part of the plots containing the best varieties that are known to be stiff in the straw were being lodged, while in another part of the same field the sorts stood perfectly straight.

The wheat was fully a week later than in the London district, which made it harder to decide how they compared with other sections. Rust was showing plainly in many cases, and would doubtless injure the sample and lessen the yield of many of the varieties.

Among those being tried are a lot of foreign wheats, many of which are quite promising, but which, on account of their lateness, are never likely to come into general cultivation.

The varieties mentioned in other parts of this review appear most promising here, taking them in the same order. American Bronze looks exceedingly well on these trial plots. It stands as well as any, is bright in the straw, and the sample should prove good and the yield a heavy one. Jones' Winter Fyfe compared favorably with anything on the plots, the head was well filled, straw brighter and stiffer than the majority of others on the plots.

Early Red Clawson here proves that it is quite equal to the high commendation that it has received since its first introduction. It is a strong, handsome grower here, with all the qualifications for a good yielder.

Golden Cross shows remarkably well; this soil appears to suit it. It had grown a thick, close crop, with goodly filled heads, and stood well; straw bright.

Manchester bright in the straw, and if it had but a better head would be equal to some of the better varieties.

Canadian Velvet Chaff, on the second plot seen, is much superior to that growing on the first. Here it has grown well, is thick on the ground, and stands well.

Square Head was not here. Surprise is very fine, and appears suitable to this soil. It stands well, and is bright in the straw.

Democrat looks well, but the head is decreasing in size, and the plant is decidedly less vigorous than formerly.

Garfield was disappointing. This wheat is generally thoroughly reliable, but the plot was badly down and straw rusted. It evidently did not thrive on this soil.

A plot of that old reliable, grand yielding wheat, "The Scott," that fulfilled its part so well from 1874 to 1882, and gave such an impetus to Ontario as a producer of high quality wheat and flour, looked well, but half the heads had lost their type and reverted to an inferior bearded sort.

To summarize: The chief characteristics required in wheat are vigor to insure the best possible results throughout all conditions, strength in the