

Which variety of winter wheat should you choose for seeding?

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Winter wheat cultivation offers several advantages including that of a cover/rotational crop and spreading of field operations in our short growing season. Optimum window for seeding winter wheat/other cereals is from August 25 to September 7. However, the seeding could be extended to mid-September without much loss in the grain yield. CDC Falcon (hard red) has over the years shown good resistance to our winters. However, its grain yield has come down and the variety was likely to be lowered to feed grade from the food grade. We tried other varieties of hard red winter wheat in comparison to CDC Falcon and found that AC Flourish (which was developed as a replacement for CDC Falcon) and Moats gave 647 kg/ha (3 year average) and 1,444 kg/ha (2 year average) higher grain yield than CDC Falcon, respectively. AC Emerson, reported to be the first wheat variety of any kind to receive the resistant (or R) rating to Fusarium Head Blight (FHB), evaluated last year, recorded 1,088 kg/ha higher grain yield than CDC Falcon. Straw yields from CDC Falcon, AC Flourish, Moats and AC Emerson were 6,260, 7,215, 8,520 and 7,321 kg/ha. Considering both the grain and the straw yields, Moats could be the best choice. However, if there is a risk of FHB, preference may be given to AC Emerson. Grain protein content in all these varieties was considerably higher than the minimum acceptable level of 11 %. In the Ontario varieties, only Keldin gave 336 kg/ha higher grain yield than CDC Falcon. However, the straw yield from Keldin was nearly 1 MT/ha lower than that from CDC Falcon.

AC Flourish seed is marketed by SeCan It is resistant to stem and leaf rust, but is susceptible to FHB. Moats, which too has resistance to rusts, is marketed by SeCan as well. AC Emerson seed is marketed by Canterra Seeds. Keldin seeds could be obtained from CM Seeds; though considering its low grain yield as compared to Moats and AC Emerson, I would be reluctant to recommend it for cultivation in northwestern Ontario. Visit <http://www.tbars.net/extension.shtml> to read my articles on winter wheat for obtaining maximum economic yield from winter wheat.

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