

Washington Grain Commission
Wheat and Barley Research Annual Progress Reports and Final Reports

Project #: 6195

Progress Report Year: 2 of 3

Title: Field Breeding Soft White Winter Wheat

Investigator/Cooperators: AH Carter, TD Murray, XM Chen, KG Campbell, CF Morris

Executive summary: A new club cultivar, developed in coordination and collaboration with the USDA breeding program, was approved for release in 2015 and will be named Pritchett. This is targeted to replace Bruehl, with improved disease resistance, yield potential, and cold hardiness. In the 2015 VT trials, Jasper was in the top five yielding lines in production zones with greater than 12” annual precipitation. In 2016, all foundation and registered seed was sold of this line. Puma was in high demand in the fall of 2016 and thousands of bushels were sold for commercial production with the expectation that acres will increase in 2017. Puma was in the top three yielding cultivars across the four production regions determined by the Variety Testing program, and was the number one yielding line in the 12-16” and 16-20” rainfall zones. Otto, a 2011 release from this program, continues to grow in demand. In 2016 it was estimated to be planted on 221,000 acres, and has been stable in production. Nine advanced breeding lines were entered into WSU’s Variety Testing (VT) Program, five in the low rainfall zones and four in the high. Two lines, WA8234 and WA8232 were approved for prerelease and are on seed increase. Both lines have excellent yield potential and disease resistance, and had high falling numbers in 2015 and 2016.. Over 1,200 unreplicated yield-trial plots were evaluated at either Pullman or Lind and thousands of F4 head rows were evaluated in Pullman, Lind, and Waterville. Over 2,500 DH lines were planted for 2017 evaluation. High selection pressure is continually placed on disease resistance, emergence, flowering date, end-use quality, straw strength, etc. Multiple screening locations have been established to evaluate germplasm for: stripe rust resistance, foot rot resistance, snow mold resistance, good emergence, aluminum tolerance, soil borne wheat mosaic virus resistance, Cephalosporium tolerance, and nematode resistance. The program has also employed efforts to develop herbicide resistant cultivars and advanced lines have been entered into Variety Testing. Many lines have been performing every well and some are on breeders seed increase in preparation for variety release proposal. We continue to put a strong emphasis on soft white wheat in the program, and have begun to modify our breeding schemes to account for marker-assisted selection, genomic selection, and doubled-haploid production.

Impact: Traditionally, over 85% of the wheat crop in our state is winter wheat. Even very small reductions of required grower input and/or increases in productivity can mean millions of dollars to the growers, grain trade and allied industries. By providing genetic resistance to diseases and increasing agronomic adaptability, input costs will be reduced and grain yield increased. WSU soft white cultivars are grown on approximately 47% of the acres. This continues to increase each year. Measured impact is demonstrated with the releases of Otto, Puma, Jasper, and Pritchett, and upcoming lines WA8234 and WA8232.

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WGC project title: Field Breeding Soft White Winter Wheat
Project PI(s): AH Carter
Project initiation date: July 1, 2012
Project year: 2 of 3

Objective	Deliverable	Progress	Timeline	Communication
Develop soft white winter wheat cultivars	New cultivars released for production in WA	We released Otto in 2011. Puma (WA8134) was released in 2012. Jasper was released in 2014. Otto became the #1 grown cultivar in the state in 2015, replacing much of the Eltan acres. Puma was sold in high demand in the fall of 2016 and will be on large commercial production in 2017. Jasper was sold out of registered seed in 2016 and production and interest continues to increase. Released lines have high yield potential, excellent disease resistance, and very good end-use quality. We also co-released Pritchett in 2015 in collaboration with the USDA. This line is intended to replace Bruehl. We have 5 breeding lines in statewide testing for consideration under low rainfall production systems and 4 in statewide testing for consideration under high rainfall production. One of these lines is a two-gene imazamox resistant lines. We have over 12,000 plots and 20,000 rows of soft white material under evaluation at various stages of the breeding process.	Each year we evaluate germplasm at each stage of the breeding process. Each year lines are entered into statewide testing for final release consideration. A cultivar is released, on average, every two years.	Progress will be reported through field days, grower meetings, commission reports, annual progress reports, and peer-reviewed manuscripts
	Agronomic traits	We have 18 locations across the state representing diverse climatic zones in which advanced breeding lines are evaluated for agronomic characteristics. Early generation material is selected for in Lind and Pullman. This year we continued head row selection at Lind due to the ability to screen for emergence and cold tolerance along with an extra location near Waterville to screen for snow mold.	Evaluation is done annually at multiple locations across the state.	
	Disease resistance	Disease resistance is recorded on our 18 breeding locations as disease is present, with certain locations being selected specifically for disease pressure (Waterville for snow mold, Pullman for stripe rust, etc.). Additional locations are planted in cooperation with plant pathologists to screen other diseases of importance in WA	Evaluation is done annually at multiple locations across the state.	

	End-use quality	All F4 and greater material is subjected to end-use quality screens to evaluate performance. Lines with poor quality are discarded from the breeding program and from selection in 2017.	Each year, all head rows are evaluated for end-use quality and lines predicted to have superior quality advanced. Each yield trial is submitted for quality evaluations and those with high performance are advanced in the breeding process.	
	Herbicide resistance	Multiple soft white lines have been developed for herbicide resistance and are being evaluated under replicated trials across the state. One line has shown very good promise and is on increase for seed production in 2017. Novel traits are being incorporated into germplasm through collaboration with Dr. Ian Burke.	Evaluation is done annually at multiple locations across the state.	
Introgress novel genes for essential traits	Incorporation of novel genes into adapted germplasm for evaluation under WA environments			Progress will be reported through field days, grower meetings, commission reports, annual progress reports, and peer-reviewed manuscripts
	Rht and photoperiod genes	Crosses have been made to include non-traditional Rht and photoperiod genes into our soft white winter wheat germplasm for testing under PNW conditions.	Crosses made through the project #5195 will be evaluated under field conditions upon MAS completion.	
	Stripe rust genes	We constantly have material coming out of the MAS program for stripe rust. In 2016 we evaluated multiple populations in both early and preliminary yield trials. Material includes new genes identified from Eltan, Coda, and novel genes from GWAS analysis.	Crosses made through the project #5195 will be evaluated under field conditions upon MAS completion.	
	Foot rot genes	We have many populations being screened for foot rot resistance. Field evaluations of these selections are done in collaboration with Dr. Campbell.	Crosses made through the project #5195 will be evaluated under field conditions upon MAS completion.	
	Cephalosporium	No markers are currently being used for this introgression. All selection is being done under field conditions. We recently completed an association mapping study, and have identified numerous markers which can be used for selection, as well as germplasm which can be used for crossing and pyramiding QTL together.	Evaluation will be done in field locations in WA in 2017	

	Aluminum tolerance	Field screening of breeding lines for aluminum tolerance is being conducted under field conditions. We recently completed an association mapping study, and have identified numerous markers which can be used for selection, as well as germplasm which can be used for crossing and pyramiding QTL together. Field screening has identified multiple lines that appear to have tolerance. Further screening will be done in 2017 to confirm this.	Evaluation will be done in field locations in WA in 2017	
	Hessian Fly	In collaboration with Dr. Nilsa Bosque-Perez we screened 12 F2 populations with new sources of resistance to Hessian Fly. Resistant plants were returned to the breeding program for further crossing.	Additional populations will be screened in 2017 after backcrossing	
	Nematodes	Nematode screening has been done in collaboration with Dr. Paulitz and Dr. Campbell. Advanced material was screened in 2016 for cereal cyst resistance, and data will be used to help selections in 2017.	Additional populations will be screened in 2017	
	End-use quality	Seed of bi-parental mapping populations have been submitted for quality analysis and an association mapping panel for end-use quality was grown for analysis in 2016. This data will be included in genomic selection prediction models.	Genomic prediction models should be available for selection in 2017.	

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