

2.4 Milling Wheat Demonstration Trial

Researchers

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Site

Tarrington

Background

Due to the increased interest and area sown to milling wheat in the Hamilton District, in 1999 a decision was made to evaluate a number of differing maturity milling wheat varieties in the Hamilton District. Later sown than the red winter

wheat varieties, they are more susceptible to frost damage at flowering, due to their shorter maturity. They are also more prone to weather damage at harvest. Ideally suited to well-drained sites, they can be profitable if their agronomic requirements can be met.

Methods

Five different varieties with differing maturities were sown on the 9th of June at a sowing rate of 100 kg/ha. Plots were 9 metres wide and 100 metres long and were sown and harvested using conventional farming equipment.

RESULTS

Variety	Maturity	Yield (T/ha)
Frame	Early – mid	4.87
Goldmark	Mid	5.64
Kellalac	Late	4.75
Rosella	Late	5.44
Silverstar	Very early	5.63
LSD (T/ha)		0.28

Yields were excellent considering the dry conditions during early spring. No frost damage occurred and while leaf rust was present on all varieties (except Goldmark) it did not appear to affect the yield greatly.

Weather damage occurred due to the rain that fell in late December, with Goldmark and Rosella appearing to be the worst affected. To date, grain quality evaluation has not occurred.

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