

2009 Wheat Variety Recommendations¹

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Our recommendations are based on variety tests from the 2008 and 2009 NC Small Grains Official Variety Testing Program (OVT or “Green Book”), 2009 Beaufort County variety tests conducted by Gaylon Ambrose, and observations of pest levels in tests across NC over the past three years. The information we collect on variety resistance to insect and disease pests is published here in Table 1, and also in the OVT. Our variety rankings are not always the same as those reported in the OVT, because 1) we use additional tests not available to the OVT, 2) we may exclude low yielding locations used in the OVT, and 3) we examine both average variety performance and stability of performance across years and regions. Last year variety performance in Perquimans County differed from the rest of the state. This year, those differences were less pronounced. Consequently, we are releasing a single variety recommendations list for all of NC. However, several varieties that performed differently in the northeast are noted in Table 1.

Variety Selection

- **Plant at least three varieties.** The “Above Average Yielding” varieties are good first choices for 2009 (see Table 1). The next to consider are the “Above Average But Less Consistent Yielders”. These are varieties that on average had high yield, but are more risky. Finally, the “Average Yielding Varieties” are likely to produce acceptable yields but may not win a yield contest.
- **To avoid freeze damage** no more than one (if any) early or med-early heading variety should be planted, and at least one late heading variety should be planted.
- **Fine-tune variety choices to make sure they hold up** against the most common problems in your region. Here are some examples:
 - *Central Piedmont.* The three most common yield robbers in this area include Spring freeze damage, Barley yellow dwarf virus, and Fusarium head blight (scab). A variety that was high yielding, late heading, and resistant to these two diseases would be ideal. Table 1 shows that Dyna-Gro Shirley is such a variety.

¹ Made possible with funding from the NC Small Grain Growers Association. Use of brand names & mention or listing of commercial products does not imply endorsement by the NC Cooperative Extension Service nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

- *Coastal Plains*. Powdery mildew, leaf rust, and soilborne mosaic virus are common wheat pests in this region. Ideal wheat varieties should be high yielding and have resistance to all three of these diseases. Table 1 shows that Dyna-Gro Dominion, P 26R12, USG 3342, and SS 8641 meet these criteria.
- *Tidewater*. Hessian fly and Soilborne mosaic virus have been frequent yield robbers in the Tidewater. Two varieties with resistance to these pests are P 26R12 and C 9436 (Table 1).

Special Recommendations For Head Scab

In 2009, some growers were hard-hit by *Fusarium* head blight (“scab”). **Scab can be a problem any year** that we have rain and mild temperatures before and during flowering, when wheat is susceptible to this disease. Abundant corn debris, whether on your farm or elsewhere in your county, also increases scab risk. Scab lowers wheat yields and test weights, and produces a toxin called DON or “vomitoxin” that can make grain unsuitable for human or animal consumption. Here are some important recommendations to keep in mind:

- **Variety resistance is the best defense against scab.** Many varieties have moderate to good resistance to scab. Plant varieties rated “MR” for scab. Do not depend on resistance if the variety is only designated as “S” for “susceptible.”
- **Plant at least three varieties with different heading dates,** to avoid all your wheat flowering at the same time.
- **Avoid planting very late.** Late planting means later flowering in the spring, when warmer temperatures are more favorable for scab.
- **If it is rainy during and after heading,** and the variety has high yield potential but is rated “S” or “MS” for scab, consider **applying a special fungicide** at flowering. These include Prosaro and Caramba; they must be applied with nozzles angled at 45 degrees, and may reduce scab by 40-60%. Folicur will also provide some control. Do not apply a strobilurin fungicide for scab.
- **To help make fungicide decisions** just before and while your wheat is flowering next Spring, check the scab risk forecasting website at www.wheatcab.psu.edu. This website will tell you if you have high, medium, or low scab risk.

Need More Information?

Go to <http://www.smallgrains.ncsu.edu> or call your local county Extension office.

Table 1. 2008 & 2009 Wheat Variety Performance

Wheat Variety ¹	Heading Date	Pest Resistance To ³ :								
		Powdery Mildew	Leaf Rust	SNB ²	Hessian Fly Biotype-L	Barley Yellow Dwarf	Soilborne Wheat Mosaic	Wheat Spindle Streak	Head Scab	Stripe Rust
Above Average Yielding										
DG Dominion*	medium	R	R	MR	fair-poor	S	MR		MR	
DG Shirley	late	R	R	MS	fair	MR			MR	
P 26R12	late	MR	MR	MS	good	MR	MR	R	S	MS
Progeny 185	medium	S	MS	MR		MS			MR	
SS 520	early	MR	MS	S	poor	MS	MR	R	S	S
SS 5205	med-early	MS	MR	MS	poor	MR			MR	
SS 8302	late	S	S	MS	fair	MS	MS		MR	R
SS 8404	medium	S	MS	MS	fair-poor	MS	MR		MS	
USG 3342	medium	MR	R	MS		S	MR		MR	
USG 3555	med-early	R	S	MS		MR			MR	
USG 3592	medium	MS	R	MS	fair	MS	MR	R	S	MS
USG 3725	late	MS	MS	MS		MS			S	
Above Average But Less Consistent Yielders										
AGS 2050	medium	MR	S	MR		MS			MR	
P 26R22	medium	MS	MS	MS		MS	MS		MS	
Average Yielding										
DG V9713	late	S	MS	MR	poor	MS	MR		MR	
Jamestown	early	MR	MS	S		MR	MS		MR	
SS 548*	late	MR	S		good-fair	MS			MS	
SS 8308	medium	MR	S	MR	good	MS	S		S	
SS 8641	med-early	R	R	MS	fair-poor	MS	MR		S	
T TV8558*	medium	MR	S	MS		MS	MR		MS	
USG 3209*	med-early	MS	S		poor	MS	MR	R	MS	MR
USG 3665*	late	MR	MS	MS	good-fair	S	S		MR	
Below Average Yielding										
C 9436	late	MR	MS	MS	good-fair	S	MR		MR	
C 9553	med-early	MR	S		fair-poor	MS	MR		MS	
C 9804	medium	MR	S		poor	MS			S	
Magnolia	med-early	S	MS	S	fair	S	R		MR	
NC-Neuse	late	R	MR	MR	good	MS	MR	MS	MR	MS
Panola	med-early	MR	S	S	poor	S	MR	MS	S	
P 26R15	late	MR	MS	MR	good-fair	S	MS	R	MR	MR
P 26R31	med-early	MR	S		fair-poor	S	MS		MS	
Progeny 117	med-early	S	S			S			MR	
Progeny 166	late	S	R	MS		S			MR	
Roane	late	S	MS	MR	fair	MR	MS	R	MR	MS
SS 560	medium	MR	S	MS	poor	S	MS	R	MS	MS
SS 8309	late	MR	MS	MS	poor	MR	S		MR	S
SS MPV57*	medium	S	MR	S	poor	MS	MR		MR	

- Listed alphabetically within each yield group: C = Coker; DG = DynaGro; P = Pioneer; SS = Southern States; T = Terral; USG = UniSouth Genetics.
 - SNB stands for Stagonospora nodorum blotch.
 - S, MS, MR, & R stand for Susceptible, Moderately Susceptible, Moderately Resistant, & Resistant respectively.
- * Special note for Perquimans County: In this region DG Dominion was an average yielder, SS 548, T TV8558, USG 3209, and USG 3665 were below average yielding, and SS MPV57 was above average yielding.