

MSU Variety Performance Trial reports available

The results of this year's MSU variety trials are available at:

[MSU Wheat Performance Trials website](#). There are two reports: one giving the results of only commercially available varieties and another that includes experimental lines in addition to the commercial varieties.

The 2016 report for commercial varieties represents the results from six sites across the state, providing valuable comparative data on 62 (54 soft red and 10 soft white) varieties. At two sites (Ingham and Tuscola), all varieties were grown using both conventional and high management inputs. The high management inputs over that of conventional inputs entailed an additional 30 pounds of fertilizer nitrogen - for a total of 120 lbs per acre- and two fungicide applications. This season, these additional inputs, when averaged across all commercial varieties, only boosted yields by six bushels per acre at the Ingham site and four bushels at the Tuscola site. This unusually low level of yield response was primarily due to a relatively low level of disease pressure. It should also be noted that the response varies considerably by variety

The report also shares ratings for each variety's level of resistance to various diseases, including various leaf diseases and Fusarium head scab. This season, stripe rust was the predominant leaf disease at each site for susceptible varieties. Other characteristics measured in the trials include test weight, harvest moisture, plant lodging, maturity, and baking qualities.

The performance report is the single best reference for growers to use when selecting new varieties. When considering varieties, [Michigan State University Extension](#) recommends using the report's multi-year and multi-site data, rather than information from a single site or season. This helps insure varieties are selected that will likely perform under a range of conditions.

The report is also a helpful reference for management decisions. The information on lodging, maturity and disease resistance can aid growers in fine-tuning strategies relative to nitrogen fertilization and fungicide programs for individual varieties.

The effort is part of MSU's wheat breeding team led by Dr. Eric Olson. Leadership for field trials is provided by Lee Siler. Funding for the high management studies is provided by the MI Wheat Program.

Marestail in wheat stubble

Marestail is spreading at a terrific rate across much of MI. Wheat stubble offers a chance to minimize its spread. In the last two issues of the C.O.R.N newsletter from OSU, Mark Loux has written two pieces directed toward marestail:

- [Marestail Control in wheat stubble issue 2016-21](#). and
- [Marestail Control in wheat stubble, Cover crop considerations, issue 2016-22](#)

