



# News Release

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Top Four Wheat Varieties in Oklahoma Have OSU Roots**

Oklahoma State University (OSU) varieties continue to be the leading Hard Red Winter Wheat varieties planted in the state of Oklahoma. Actually the top four wheat varieties planted in the state were developed by OSU. The roots of success continue to be firmly anchored with several other up-and-coming OSU varieties being used by Oklahoma wheat producers. The top hard red winter wheat variety was Duster, followed by Endurance. Newer releases showing significant increases in acreage from last year were Gallagher and Ruby Lee. This is according to the March 2015 “Oklahoma Wheat Variety Report” from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Duster continues to be the leading variety of all wheat seeded in Oklahoma, accounting for 14.1 percent of the state’s 2015 planted wheat acres. Duster was the most popular variety throughout the central corridor of wheat production in the state.

Duster has been a consistent top performer in OSU wheat variety tests. It performs well in both grain-only and dual-purpose systems and has above-average tillering ability which allows it to recover well from grazing. It emerges well in hot, dry soil conditions and closes the canopy rapidly. These traits along with good forage production and medium-late first hollow stem make Duster a nice fit for dual-purpose production systems. Duster has effective resistance to several diseases common to Oklahoma, including leaf rust, stripe rust, powdery mildew, wheat soilborne mosaic, wheat spindle streak mosaic and barley yellow dwarf. Moderate susceptibility to tan spot and septoria means Duster should be monitored for these diseases in continuous no-till wheat production systems.

Duster is highly resistant to the Great Plains biotype of Hessian fly. This is of particular benefit to producers wishing to sow early to maximize forage yield or those who no-till wheat after wheat.

Endurance wheat, a mainstay released by Oklahoma State University Wheat Improvement team in 2004, has performed well in dual-purpose and grain-only systems throughout the state of Oklahoma and beyond. It shows an unusual ability to break winter dormancy consistently late from year to year yet will catch up on heading date relative to Duster. Still Endurance finishes relatively late and often benefits from moderate temperatures during May. Years of yield data indicate that Endurance has the ability to maintain good yield potential in a wide range of stress environments as well. Given these attributes, it should be no surprise that the OSU wheat improvement team has used Duster and Endurance as a sturdy foundation for creating new, improved varieties.

For example, Gallagher, a newer OSU variety with Duster parentage, has great forage production with improved yield and a disease resistance package similar to Dusters but with improved tolerance to leaf spotting diseases expected in no-till or high-residue systems. Gallagher is an early maturing wheat but good grazing tolerance. The seed size is larger than Duster and has above average test weights. Gallagher also has the same genetic source of Hessian fly resistance as Duster. It also carries a key segment of a rye chromosome that lends greater yielding ability, but unlike so many varieties with this feature, Gallagher has provided above milling and baking quality.

The Ruby Lee variety has Endurance as one of its parents with large seed size and outstanding milling and baking characteristics. The Endurance influence lends excellent forage production and recovery from grazing. On the other hand, Ruby Lee is highly responsive to intensive management with great top-end yield potential. Stripe rust and powdery mildew can restrict yield of Ruby Lee, so foliar fungicides are recommended when justified by yield potential. The Ruby Lee variety is Hessian fly resistant with good tan spot resistance for no-till systems. Ruby Lee is best suited for a soil pH of 5.5 and above. Ruby Lee has good drought tolerance and wide area of adaptation throughout the Southern Plains but appears best fit for downstate Oklahoma.

Thanks to wheat improvement programs like the one at OSU, producers continue to have improved options of wheat varieties to plant. Whether it is improved stress or pest tolerance or increased yields, the Oklahoma Wheat Improvement Team at OSU is working at creating varieties that are meeting producers' changing needs.

Wheat varieties released by OSU continue to feature these traits:

- \*High grain yield with or without grazing
- \*Heat and drought tolerance
- \*Resistance to multiple fungal and viral diseases
- \*Resistance to aphids and Hessian fly
- \*High quality for both milling and baking needs

Most importantly, OSU wheat varieties are locally adapted but globally marketed.

It is important to note the varieties released by the Wheat Improvement Team at OSU have been through several years of testing for the quality based attributes that both domestic and foreign customers are looking for with regards to milling and baking characteristics. Variety development programs that rush a variety to release may not provide the same level of scrutiny for end-use performance. By finding important traits that are beneficial to grain buyers, the OSU Wheat Improvement Team is also working to capture more market share for the farmer by creating varieties that have the most benefit for end users.

Other important OSU varieties planted by Oklahoma wheat producers as cited in the “Oklahoma Wheat Variety Report” from the USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service include:

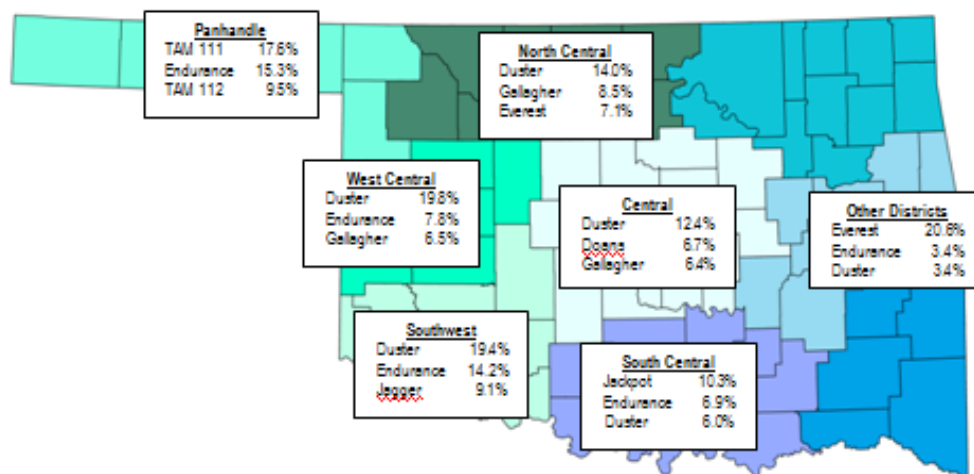
Iba, the most yield-stable variety among newest OSU releases  
Doublestop CL Plus, two gene CLEARFIELD with high yielding ability  
Garrison, the best-fit OSU variety for high-residue systems  
OK Bullet  
Billings  
Deliver  
Centerfield  
2174

For more wheat variety information about OSU wheat releases click on <http://www.okgenetics.com>

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### Top Three Wheat Varieties: by Percent, and by District, Oklahoma, Crop Year 2015



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Link to article on website -

<http://www.ok.gov/wheat/documents/top%20variety%20releases%20written%20final%20with%20changes.pdf>

