THE REGISTERED VARIETIES OF AMERICAN WHEAT:
THEIR CLASS, ORIGIN, AND ACREAGE

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ORIGIN OF WHEAT VARIETIES

The purpose of this paper is to summarize the data on the number of recognized or registered wheat varieties, and their commercial acreage, with respect to class and origin.

The varieties may be separated as to origin into three groups, viz., (1) by introduction, (2) by selection, and (3) by hybridization. Introduction from foreign countries was the first or early method of obtaining varieties. Selection followed as a method of improvement of introduced and domestic sorts. Finally, hybridization furnished a more scientific method of originating new and improved varieties.

These methods have been used by both public and private workers. The older varieties were introduced, selected, or bred by farmers. With the organization of the United States Department of Agriculture and the state agricultural experiment stations, many varieties of wheat and other cereals were introduced, and agronomists at publicly supported federal, state, or provincial experiment stations in the United States and Canada began improving old varieties and originating new varieties by selection and hybridization.

VARIETAL SURVEY AND THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS FOR 1924

The first estimates of the commercial acreage of all wheat varieties grown commercially in the United States were made in 1919 and were based upon replies to varietal questionnaires from crop correspondents and upon preliminary acreages reported by the Fourteenth United States Census. These estimates were published in U. S. De-

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