A WHEAT VARIETY SURVEY IN WASHINGTON1

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INTRODUCTION

A knowledge of wheat varieties and the location in which they are grown is essential in carrying out a program for the improvement of the crop. On account of wide variations in elevation, temperature, rainfall, and character of soil in Washington, many varieties have been introduced to meet the needs of the different wheat-growing areas. The grower, in search of superior varieties, often discards one variety for another and further adds to the number grown. In some cases he finds later that he has substituted a poor variety for a good one, and also in changing from one to another has increased the chances for mixture.

A variety distinctly superior to others may be introduced with marked advantage, particularly if it can replace more than one variety. It raises the standard by substituting the better for the inferior variety and reduces the chance for mixture. The work of wheat improvement is in part based on adaptation tests conducted at the main and branch stations and can be carried on more intelligently through information obtained on variety distribution by means of a variety survey.

WHEAT SURVEYS PRIOR TO 1926

A wheat variety survey for the crops of 1918 and 1919 was published in Washington Station Bulletin 159. The 1921 survey was published in THE WASHINGTON FARMER, December 28, of that year. A summary of the surveys for 1922 and 1923 is presented here as a permanent record and for comparison with the distribution of the 1926 crop.

SURVEY FOR THE 1926 CROP

Information necessary for making the survey concerning varieties grown, production, and acreage was secured direct from farmers by correspondence. The mailing list was obtained from county agents, grain dealers, and others acquainted with wheat growers within the various counties. The following form was used:

1Contribution from the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station, Pullman, Washington, as scientific paper No. 141. Received for publication December 22, 1927.
2Agronomist and Ceralist, respectively.

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