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Preface

The evolution of this important crop species is a topic of keen interest that most plant scientists deal with from a historical perspective. Although hypotheses pertaining to the putative parents of certain species or genera are still being tested, we obviously operate at great distance from the critical historical events, both in time and distance. Such is not the case with triticale, a crop derived from crosses between wheat and rye. Not only are we able to study the first scientific papers, which were published more than 100 years ago when the first successful crosses were made, but we have been and currently are in the middle of an exciting and significant developmental period involving a potentially valuable economic crop.

Unfortunately, the excitement and publicity associated with this new crop have exceeded the actual biological development. When we think of the millions of years during which our present-day wheats and rice evolved, certainly we have placed unreasonable expectations on the performance and value of triticale after so few years and minimal total effort devoted to its improvement.

You will find documented in the chapters in this special publication the solid approaches by a relatively few scientists dedicated to triticale improvement. Genetic, cytogenetic, molecular, nutritional, and agronomic studies all have contributed important new knowledge about this crop. This crop and a devoted cadre of workers deserve time and patience in quest of performance levels that are competitive with other crops. However, we also must evaluate the performance of triticale based on sound research data. Our societies, through this symposium, this publication, and our other scientific journals, intend to contribute to this exciting example of modern crop evolution.

Robert A. Forsberg, Editor
Kenneth J. Frey, President
American Society of Agronomy
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Crop Science Society of America
The evolution of this important crop species is a topic of keen interest that most plant scientists deal with from a historical perspective. Although hypotheses pertaining to the putative parents of certain species or genera are still being tested, we obviously operate at great distance from the critical historical events, both in time and distance. Such is not the case with triticale, a crop derived from crosses between wheat and rye. Not only are we able to study the first scientific papers, which were published more than 100 years ago when the first successful crosses were made, but we have been and currently are in the middle of an exciting and significant developmental period involving a potentially valuable economic crop. Unfortunately, the excitement and publicity associated with this new crop have exceeded the actual biological development. When we think of the millions of years during which our present-day wheats and rice evolved, certainly we have placed unreasonable expectations on the performance and value of triticale after so few years and minimal total effort devoted to its improvement. You will find documented in the chapters in this special publication the solid approaches by a relatively few scientists dedicated to triticale improvement. Genetic, cytogenetic, molecular, nutritional, and agronomic studies all have contributed important new knowledge about this crop. This crop and a devoted cadre of workers deserve time and patience in quest of performance levels that are competitive with other crops. However, we also must evaluate the performance of triticale based on sound research data. Our societies, through this symposium, this publication, and our other scientific journals, intend to contribute to this exciting example of modern crop evolution.
Acknowledgments

Sincere thanks go to Drs. Frank Loeffel, Henry Shands, and Clarence J. Peterson, Jr. In 1978 a planning meeting for the symposium was held at the annual meetings, and the symposium was held the following year in Fort Collins, Colorado. Drs. Loeffel and Shands were instrumental in arranging the symposium, and Dr. Peterson moderated the symposium and collected the papers.