EXTRA EARLY BLACKHULL, AN UNUSUAL NEW STRAIN OF THE "BLACKHULL" GROUP OF WHEATS
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The "Blackhull" group of wheats have exerted a major influence on the thinking and efforts of growers, breeders, and the processors of wheat in the Great Plains for some 40 years. Both breeders and growers are aware of the contributions to high test weight and other valuable characteristics that the "Blackhull" wheats have made to such new varieties as Wichita, Crockett, Bison, Aztec, Tascosa, and others.

The original Blackhull variety of wheat, frequently termed Standard Blackhull to distinguish it from certain derivatives, was found by Earl G. Clark of Sedgwick, Kansas, in a field of Turkey wheat in 1912. This Turkey wheat seed had been introduced from Russia by the Newton Mill and Elevator Company. Seed from the black-chaffed plant found by Clark was increased and distributed as Blackhull wheat in 1917. In 1939, the variety Blackhull was grown on more than 8 million acres in the United States. Clark developed and distributed 11 other varieties during 1917-52, but none was as popular as Blackhull and most were of poor quality.

Early Blackhull wheat was developed from an early plant found in Blackhull by A. P. Haebel of Clearwater, Kansas. This early plant was increased and released to growers in 1928. Early Blackhull matures about 10 days earlier than Blackhull, which made it popular with growers. An estimated 2,106,295 acres were grown in 1949, but in 1959, Early Blackhull acreage had declined to 311,000 acres.

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