Benni is a selection from the cross: 'Benhur' sib/'Forlani'. Pedigree selection was made in F5, F6, F9, and F10 generations.

Benni has been in yield tests at Lafayette, Ind. since 1975. Breeders' seed originated from mass selection of plants in F10 in 1979 which appeared uniform for the multifloret character and other observable traits. Controlled studies in 1977 and 1979 along with general observations since 1967 establish the multifloret character of Benni.

Benni has averaged the same maturity as Arthur in nursery trials at Lafayette, Ind. Benni has averaged 7 cm taller than Arthur. Anther color is yellow. Anthocyanin in the stem is generally absent. A very slight waxy bloom may be present on the stem and leaf sheaths. Internodes are hollow. Stems are very strong and yellow at maturity. Hairs are absent on the first leaf sheath. The first leaf below the flag leaf averages 11 mm wide and 24 cm long.

Spikes are lax, averaging 55 mm/10 internodes. Spikes are tapering and awned. Glumes are brown near maturity, but may become tan at or after maturity. Spikes are nodded at maturity. Spikes generally are 9 cm long and 15 mm wide. Spike width and length vary with production level and population density and also depend upon whether the spike is the main or a secondary spike of the plant. Glumes are glabrous, short, and wide. Shoulders are rounded. Beaks are acuminate.

Seedling anthocyanin is present in the first leaf of the seedlings with a purple coleoptile.

Kernels are red, elliptical, have rounded cheeks and have a medium-long, collared brush. The phenol reaction is very light brown. Seeds are 7 mm long, 3 mm wide, and average 30 g/1,000 seeds. The embryo is medium in size.

Benni is susceptible to winter damage at Lafayette, Ind. Benni yields competitively in years when it survives the winter. Test weight of Benni is about 71 compared to 77 kg/h for 'Sullivan,' 'Abe,' and 'Redcoat.'

Benni has some resistance to Septoria tritici Rob. ex. Desm. It is susceptible to Erysiphe graminis DC. f. sp. tritici E.M. Marchal, soil-borne mosaic virus, and wheat spindle streak mosaic virus. It has some resistance to barley yellow dwarf virus. Benni is moderately susceptible to current populations of Puccinia graminis Pers. f. sp. tritici Eriks. and Henn. and is susceptible to biotypes B and D of Hessian fly, Mayetiola destructor (Say).

Benni has poor to fair soft wheat milling and baking quality. It is high in percentage protein, has a low particle size index, high micro alkaline water retention capacity, and a low cookie diameter.

Seed of Benni will be maintained by AR-SEA-USDA at Beltsville, MD 20705.