that has a main central panicle with thick, erect to drooping, fingerlike branches. Amont was developed by the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and approved for release as a new cultivar for Montana in December 1988.

Amont was developed from RRC-A362, a Mexican bulk of the germplasm collection of the New Crops Department of the Rodale Research Center (RRC) at Kutztown, PA. RRC-1015 originated as a single-plant selection from RRC-A362 (1,2), and RRC-1041 was a single-plant selection from RRC-1015 (1). RRC-1041 had red and marbled flower color segregates and plant height differences. MT-3 was developed from RRC-1041 by mass selection for light green flower type and uniform height through roguing before anthesis, and also for large panicles by mass selection (3). Amont was developed from MT-3 through two selection cycles in order to eliminate red flower color and black seed.

Amont was tested for yield at the Huntley, Moccasin, and Sidney Montana Agricultural Research Centers in 1989. It yielded significantly higher (P < 0.05) at Huntley than 'K283', 'MT-5', 'K433', and 'K434'. K434 is currently the most common cultivar grown by farmers in the USA (4). No lodging was observed in Amont at Huntley, Sidney, and Moccasin in 1989. Lodging was observed for A200D, K266, K283, K343, K436, and MT-5 at Sidney. Days to maturity varied from 122 at Huntley and Sidney to 127 at Moccasin. Diseases are generally not yet a major problem in amaranth. Some curly top virus infected plants were observed at Huntley in a field of Amont in 1989.

The plant height of Amont is 198 cm under irrigated conditions in Montana, ≈66 cm taller than the semidwarf K432. The seed weight of Amont is 0.8 mg and the grain volume weight 81.1 kg/hL.

Breeder seed of Amont is being maintained by the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station. Foundation seed is produced under the direction of the Montana Foundation Seed Program, Montana State University, Bozeman. Production of certified classes of seed is limited to three generations from breeder seed: foundation, registered, and certified seed classes. Certified seed will be available for farmers in 1992. Exclusive rights to Amont foundation seed has been given to Soaring Eagle Seeds, Box 94, Shawmut, MT 59079.


References and Notes