to 1985 at two locations in Georgia, and nearly lost due to severe winterkill that destroyed oat yield trials in 1982, 1984, and 1985. GA-Mitchell was tested as GA-T81-1249 in Georgia from 1988 to 1990 and in the 1989-1990 Combined Central and Southern Uniform Winter Oat Yield Nursery.

GA-Mitchell has a winter growth habit with a low vernalization requirement. Juvenile plants are erect to semi-prostrate, and culms are mid-sized and glabrous. The flag leaf is mid-sized and drooping. GA-Mitchell has a moderately dense, equilateral, erect panicle with semi-erect spikelets and florets with short awns. Seed is short and moderately plump, with a white lemma.

GA-Mitchell is a high-yielding, medium-maturity, semi-dwarf oat line with stiff straw and excellent lodging resistance. In Georgia trials, its 3-yr average grain yield (3548 kg ha\(^{-1}\)) was similar to that of 'Florida 501' (3261 kg ha\(^{-1}\)), 'Florida 502' (3441 kg ha\(^{-1}\)), and 'Coker 227' (3405 kg ha\(^{-1}\)). Forage production of GA-Mitchell at three Georgia locations in 1989-90 was intermediate to Coker 227 (high) and Florida 501 (low). GA-Mitchell is 20 to 25 cm shorter than Coker 227 and 2 d later in maturity. Lodging resistance of GA-Mitchell (14%) in 10 trials was superior to that of Florida 502 (40%) and Coker 227 (60%). Test weight of this cultivar is intermediate (427 kg m\(^{-3}\)) to Florida 502 (452 kg m\(^{-3}\)) and Coker 227 (422 kg m\(^{-3}\)). Cold tolerance is slightly better than that of Florida 501 but its adaptation probably is limited to southern Coastal Plain environments due to susceptibility to winter injury. In the 1989–1990 Uniform Winter Oat Nursery at 19 locations, average grain yield of GA-Mitchell was 8% greater than Florida 501 and equivalent to that of Coker 227. Lodging resistance of GA-Mitchell (21%) was superior to that of Coker 227 (52%) and Florida 501 (60%).

GA-Mitchell is moderately resistant to prevalent races of crown rust and moderately susceptible to barley yellow dwarf virus, Erysiphe graminis DC. f. sp.avenae Em. Marchal, and P. graminis Pers.:
Pers.

Breeder seed of GA-Mitchell will be distributed to foundation seed organizations in 1991. The Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station will be responsible for maintenance of breeder seed.

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References and Notes

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