this variety. The plant height of Beede is intermediate and the straw satisfactory, but there is more lodging than in Clinto n or various hybrids included later.

Beede resists the smuts and races 7 and 7A of stem rust, having the "A" gene conditioning stem rust response. Stem Septoria is generally intermediate. Beede showed tolerance to red leaf in 1959 (10). In 1963 halo blight was observed to be more persistent on Beede than on other varieties.

Beede has been the leading oat variety in Wisconsin beginning with 1959 and continuing until this account was prepared. Consistently good yields and kernel plumpness largely account for its popularity. Phonetically, the name resembles the first initials of the late Professor B. D. Leith, one of the early oat hybridizers of this century.

The assistance of C. M. Brown and D. C. Arny and the support of Quaker Oats Company are acknowledged.

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**BRANCH OATS**

(Reg. No. 188)

H. L. SHANDS and D. C. ARNY

"Branch", *Avena sativa* L., C.I. 5013, was developed by hybridization at the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station at Madison, Wisconsin. It was released to growers of certified seed in 1951 (1). The first cross was made in 1935 between 'Forward' and a 'Victoria'-"Richland" sel. 5544-3 (8). The resulting selection, X219-3, was yellow-hulled and high yielding, but heterozygous for smut reaction. In 1939 this selection was crossed with Forward. Early generations were selected for agronomic desirability and especially crown rust resistance. Readings in P1 to P6 ranged from 2.2 to 10% compared to 50 to 60% for 'States Pride'. Final selection was made at P6, and 'Branch' was the only one of several producing resistant seed. This variety was outstanding at Madison in 1946, the first year of yield testing, and also the year when *Helminthosporium victoriae* M and M was noted (7). Later the yields at Madison were below those of certain other varieties and Branch might have been discarded except for making relatively good yields at the Branch Station (University Experimental Farms); hence the name Branch. In tests of 13 varieties grown at 7 locations for 1949-1951, Branch was second in yield averaging 72 bushels per acre compared to 64.6 bushels for the average of 'Andrew', 'Bonda', 'Clinton', and 'Mondo' (8). It was second in yield in 1952-54 in a 12-variety test (9). Subsequently yields have been satisfactory. In the uniform tests of Coffman et al. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6), Branch yields were higher than those of Clinton but lower than those of 'Ajax' and 'Shelby'. Bushel weight was near that of Ajax, but lower than for Clinton and Shelby. Straw strength was better than several available varieties, but not as good as 'Bonda' or 'Clinton' (9). Kernel color is almost white, being slightly tanish. Branch is intermediate in response to several crown rust races, being one of the first varieties of *Victoria* breeding with moderate crown rust resistance, and resistance to *H. victoriae* (8). Unpublished results of tests in the greenhouse showed adequate Helminthosporium resistance. Branch had 11.7% crown rust coverage in a 3-year test at Madison while States Pride and Clinton had 35% or more coverage (8). Welsh et al. (11) reported reactions to individual crown rust races. Branch has the "A" gene for stem rust reaction and has considerable Septoria resistance (10). It is resistant to common smut races.

Branch is adapted on Wisconsin soils of medium and lower fertility. It was the leading Wisconsin variety in 1954, 1955, and 1956, but has since declined in acreage.

Assistance of M. N. Grant is acknowledged.

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**FAYETTE OATS**

(Reg. No. 189)

H. L. SHANDS and C. M. BROWN

"Fayette", *Avena sativa* L., C.I. 6916, is short-strawed, yellow-kernelled oat that resulted from an attempt to produce a "good easily oat variety". This variety was first distributed in 1950 (1) after 3 years' testing at the North Central oat nursery coordinated by Coffman et al. (2, 3, 4). Fayette has 3 commercially useful

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