

'Lang-MN' Wheat is New U of MN Release



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The University of Minnesota has released a new hard red spring wheat variety called 'Lang-MN.' A well-balanced, high-yielding spring wheat variety, Lang-MN is well suited for much of the spring wheat-growing region and will be available from Certified seed producers this spring.

Jim Anderson, University of Minnesota wheat breeder, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, says, "In state trials Lang-MN has yielded well with high protein. It also possesses a good disease resistance package with an excellent rating for resistance to scab, stripe, and stem rust. Plus, it has moderate resistance to leaf rust and bacterial leaf streak. Overall it is a well-balanced variety that has exhibited good end-use quality characteristics."

The heading date of Lang-MN is similar to Faller. Lang-MN is about an inch taller than Faller with similar straw strength. It has good test weight and good pre-harvest sprouting resistance.

The new release is named in honor of Ben Lang, past president and chief executive officer of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA). Before becoming its president, Lang had worked with MCIA for over 25 years, originally joining the organization as a seed analyst and field inspector. During his career, he served the association in several senior management positions, culminating in leading the organization until his retirement in 2015.

Roger Wippler, MCIA, says, "wheat seed certification has been a key part of MCIA for over 100 years and Ben strongly believed in the benefits that certified seed provided to farmers. He truly enjoyed working with seed producers from around the state and was very humbled when notified that the variety would be named Lang-MN."

Lang-MN joins several other recent University of Minnesota spring wheat varieties: Shelly (2016), Bolles (2015), Linkert (2013), and Rollag (2011). These varieties offer growers a good combination of strong characteristics and perform well across the Upper Midwest.

Researchers in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences at the University of Minnesota have been evaluating and developing wheat varieties since 1889. Evaluation and breeding, which is administered by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, is supported in part by funding from USDA's-National Institute of Food and Agriculture and by the Small Grains Initiative.