



**On-Farm Cereal Variety and Advanced Breeding Line  
Testing across Montana for Environment Specific  
Cultivar Recommendations:**



**Durum Wheat Off-Station Variety Performance, Turner, MT**

Principal Investigator:

Peggy Lamb, Research Scientist, Northern Ag Research Center, Havre

Project Personnel:

Mike Giroux, Breeder/Geneticist, Durum, Bozeman

Andy Hogg, Research Associate, Durum, Bozeman

Eleri Haney, Research Associate, Havre

Tracy Runner, Research Assistant II, Havre

Julianne Snedigar, Blaine County Extension

Cooperator:

Max Cederberg, Landowner, Turner

Objectives:

Commercially available spring wheat varieties and advanced breeding lines were evaluated for agronomic performance and fit at on-farm locations across the state of Montana. Sites chosen for the research considered the environment, growing conditions and soil types, and represent the major land areas for producers in those regions served by Northern Agricultural Research Center. The Blaine County location near Turner entered its fortieth year of crop testing collaborations 2023.

Methods:

The uniform off-station durum variety performance trial was seeded into chemical fallow ground during 2023. The trial consisted of 12 entries seeded in replicated, three-row, 22-foot plots on a 12-inch row spacing, utilizing a self-propelled cone seeder with Atom Jet paired row openers. All plots were trimmed to a harvest length of approximately 17 feet with a three-point rototiller. Plant height was measured from the soil surface to the top of the head, excluding awns, and percent sawfly cutting was visually estimated for each plot immediately prior to harvest. A 'Wintersteiger' small plot combine, funded in part by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee, was used to harvest each three-row plot. Prior to measuring plot weight for yield determination, seed was either cleaned or weighed in-dirt as per protocols. Protein, test weight and moisture content were determined on a clean sample using a Foss Infratec 1241 near infrared analyzer. Falling number was determined using a Perten FN1700 according to the FGIS Directive 9180.38. Other variables specific to each individual trial are listed with the current year data tables.

Please note that research trial seed yield results recorded under wheat stem sawfly pressure are likely much higher than a producer should expect. Small plot variety trials are managed to assess maximum yield potential and are harvested in such a way that all stems and heads are picked up by the combine, regardless of lodging or cutting due to wheat stem sawfly. Pickup guards coupled with an extremely slow ground speed and an exceptionally low cutting height help researchers collect all heads in order to assess seed yield potential. If you are a producer in a wheat stem sawfly environment, although hollow

stemmed varieties may be high yielding in research trials in your area, we strongly recommend against growing those hollow stemmed varieties. Please be aware that if you seed hollow stemmed varieties with wheat stem sawfly present, you are only creating a breeding ground for future generations of sawfly in your area and not helping combat the pest population.

#### Results:

This report contains both single-year and long-term data summaries limited to the most recent ten years. It should be noted that the 2023 data table in this report represents varietal performance for a single crop year at a single location, therefore cannot be considered representative of performance expected when differing conditions due to location, year and management are imposed. By itself, 2023 data shall not constitute in any form a recommendation for or against any variety or breeding line included.

Durum seed yields at Turner averaged 28 bu/ac (Table 1). 2023 Montana State University releases 'MT Blackbeard' and 'MT Raska' were statistically the highest yielding entries at just over 34 and 32 bu/ac, respectively. No other entries matched those seed yields, statistically. Test weights of all durum entries for this site averaged just under 61 lb/bu with MT Raska producing a test weight of 62.6 lb/bu. Wheat stem sawfly infestation averaged 11 percent cutting in the durum trial at Turner. Yield, test weight, protein, falling number, plant height and sawfly cutting data for the 2023 Turner dryland durum trial are summarized in Table 1.

Comparable averages are calculated using a standard check variety when not all entries are present in a specific trial for all years. Variety means are adjusted by multiplying the actual check mean by the ratio of the individual variety mean compared to the check mean for the same years as tested. All varieties are then directly comparable to each other when in the same nursery. A minimum of three years of data is necessary to be included in the comparable average calculation. Nine-year comparable averages (2014-2023) for durum seed yield and test weight at Turner are summarized in Table 2, while nine-year comparable averages for protein content and wheat stem sawfly cutting are summarized in Table 3. Based on the comparable average calculations, MT Blackbeard and MT Raska are the highest yielding varieties at Turner.

#### Summary:

Snow cover persisted into mid-April, minimally delaying seeding in several areas across the Hi-Line. Once established, the Turner site had good stand uniformity. Quantity and timeliness of precipitation throughout the growing season across northcentral Montana was spotty and the durum variety trial near Turner produced just under its long-term average seed yield.

This work has been strongly supported by producers in the Turner-Hogeland area, and by the Northern Agricultural Research Center Advisory Board. With budget and other resources allowing, it is planned to continue the off-station spring wheat variety and breeding line testing in this area. The Blaine County location near Turner has been a long-term site for various cereal and variety testing trials since 1984, marking 2023 as the Cederberg Family's fortieth year of collaboration.

#### Recognition:

This research would not have been possible without the assistance of the following seasonal employees: Clara Haslem, Brady Kueffler, Clea Lamb, Teresa Miller, and Nevaeh Phillips.

**TABLE 1. Dryland Fallow Spring Durum Cultivar Evaluation Nursery Grown Off-Station at the Max Cederberg Farm, Turner. Northern Agricultural Research Center. Havre, Montana. 2023. (Exp# 23-9851-DUR)**

ID	ORIGIN or PEDIGREE	1/	TEST WT	2/	3/	PLNT HT	4/
		YIELD		PROTEIN	FN		SAWFLY
		bu/ac	lb/bu	%	seconds	inches	%
Alzada	Westbred, 2004	29.6	60.7	14.5	<b>522</b>	23.4	16.7
Carpio	NDSU, 2012	29.7	60.3	14.5	473	26.0	10.0
Divide	NDSU, 2005	29.3	61.2	14.6	471	25.6	10.0
Joppa	NDSU, 2013	26.8	61.5	14.7	455	24.6	13.3
Lustre	Montana, 2020	24.1	59.6	<b>15.2</b>	451	24.7	10.0
Mountrail	NDSU, 1998	27.6	60.1	15.0	402	25.7	13.3
MT Blackbeard	Montana, 2022	<b>34.4</b>	61.6	14.1	479	<b>28.0</b>	8.3
MT Raska	Montana, 2022	<b>32.5</b>	<b>62.6</b>	14.2	481	19.8	8.3
ND Grano	NDSU, 2017	27.0	61.3	<b>15.1</b>	487	24.2	13.3
ND Riveland	NDSU, 2017	24.0	60.3	<b>15.5</b>	485	<b>26.5</b>	8.3
MTD18148	Montana	26.3	61.2	14.5	489	20.4	15.0
MTD19011	Montana	25.3	60.8	<b>15.1</b>	487	25.0	8.3
EXPERIMENTAL MEANS		28.0	60.9	14.8	473.4	24.5	11.2
LSD (0.05)		3.3	0.4	0.5	22.2	2.0	NS
C.V.%		7.0	0.4	1.9	2.8	4.7	38.9
P-VALUE (Varieties)		<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	0.2605

1/ Volumetric yields are based on plot weights adjusted to uniform 13 percent grain moisture and 60 lbs/bu as the standard test weight for durum.

2/ Protein values are adjusted to 13 percent grain moisture.

3/ FN is the falling number value reported in seconds adjusted to 14 percent flour moisture.

4/ Sawfly rating is reported as the percentage of cut stems.

**Bold** indicates the highest or lowest value within a column (whichever is most desirable for the specific characteristic).

**Bold** indicates values equal to the underlined value within a column based on Fisher's protected LSD (P=0.05).

NS for non-significant replaces the LSD when the probability value (P-Value) exceeds 0.05.

#### Management Information (23-9851-DUR)

Seeding Date: May 4, 2023  
 Harvest Date: August 17, 2023  
 Fertility: 46-9-5-5 side banded  
 System: No Till  
 Herbicide: Vendetta, 32 oz/ac; Discover, 16 oz/ac  
 Insecticide: none  
 Previous Crop: Chemical Fallow - Winter Wheat  
 Precipitation: 4.64" seeding to harvest maturity\*

\* Precip from NOAA website

**TABLE 2. Nine-Year Yield and Test Weight Summary on Selected Entries from Dryland Fallow Spring Durum Variety Nurseries Grown Off-Station at the Max Cederberg Farm, Turner. Northern Agricultural Research Center. Havre, Montana. 2014-2023. (Exp# 9851-DUR)**

2/ VARIETY or SELECTION	3/ No. of YEARS TESTED	1/ YIELD (Bushels Per Acre)					TEST WEIGHT (Pounds Per Bushel)										
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	3/ AVE. for YEARS TESTED	4/ % of CHECK YIELD	5/ 9-YR COMP. AVE.	3/ AVE. for YEARS TESTED	4/ % of CHECK TEST WT	5/ 9-YR COMP. TEST WT					
MTD18348 MT BLACKBEARD (++)	3			13.0	34.3	34.4	27.2	119.1	<b>37.0</b>			57.5	59.9	61.6	59.7	102.2	<b>60.5</b>
MTD18313 MT RASKA (++)	3			8.7	30.6	32.5	23.9	104.7	<b>32.5</b>			60.0	61.2	62.6	61.2	104.9	<b>62.1</b>
D03028 CARPIO (+)	9	39.4	44.1	14.0	32.4	29.7	32.4	104.1	<b>32.4</b>	59.0	57.7	57.3	59.5	60.3	59.4	100.4	<b>59.4</b>
D00095 TIOGA (+)	8	39.5	40.8	12.3	34.1		32.6	103.4	<b>32.1</b>	59.2	58.2	58.8	59.6		60.2	101.9	<b>60.3</b>
NDSU ND-GRANO (+)	5	42.9	44.4	13.6	33.8	27.0	32.3	103.3	<b>32.1</b>	59.3	58.7	59.1	60.3	61.3	59.8	102.2	<b>60.5</b>
D9715-11 DIVIDE (+)	9	40.7	40.4	11.3	32.8	29.3	31.3	100.7	<b>31.3</b>	59.8	58.6	57.1	59.7	61.2	60.0	101.4	<b>60.0</b>
CDC Vivid CDC VIVID (P+)	6	36.4	38.7	12.5	38.1		30.1	100.6	<b>31.3</b>	59.2	57.8	58.6	60.1		59.5	101.2	<b>59.9</b>
D901313 MOUNTRAIL (+)	9	44.1	43.9	6.7	34.2	27.6	31.1	100.0	<b>31.1</b>	59.1	58.1	56.1	58.9	60.1	59.2	100.0	<b>59.2</b>
D97780 GRENORA (+)	8	41.3	44.8	6.2	35.5		31.2	99.1	<b>30.8</b>	59.2	58.6	55.7	59.8		59.3	100.3	<b>59.4</b>
NDSU ND-RIVELAND (+)	5	36.9	45.3	15.2	32.8	24.0	30.8	98.6	<b>30.6</b>	59.5	58.1	58.6	59.3	60.3	59.2	101.2	<b>59.9</b>
D04581 JOPPA (+)	9	38.9	44.2	12.0	30.7	26.8	30.3	97.4	<b>30.3</b>	59.9	58.7	58.3	60.5	61.5	60.3	101.9	<b>60.3</b>
YU894-75 ALZADA (P+)	7	31.4	45.6		36.9	29.6	32.8	94.8	<b>29.5</b>	59.8	57.5		59.6	60.7	59.8	100.6	<b>59.6</b>
MTD16005 LUSTRE (+)	6	36.2	43.0	9.9	30.5	24.1	30.2	94.6	<b>29.4</b>	58.4	57.0	56.0	58.5	59.6	58.3	99.1	<b>58.7</b>
MEANS (For Entries Listed)		38.9	43.2	11.3	33.6	28.5	30.5	101.6	31.6	59.3	58.1	57.8	59.8	60.9	59.7	101.3	60.0
6/ Growing Season Precipitation (in.)		2.99	5.45	3.48	5.22	4.64	5.89										
Soil PAW (in.) to SD @ Planting		6.30	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.70	6.25										
Total Plant Available Water (in.)		9.30	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.30	14.38										
Soil NO3 (lbs.) to SD at Planting		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	47	62										
SD (Sampling Depth in Inches)		19	n/a	n/a	n/a	34	39										
Fertilizer Applied	(# N)	100	100	100	46	46	92										
	(# P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )	20	20	20	9	9	18										
	(# K <sub>2</sub> O)	10	10	10	5	5	9										
	(# S)	10	10	10	5	5	6										

Check variety is Mountrail.

1/ See MCES Bulletin 1093 or the Plant Sciences & Plant Pathology website at <http://plantsciences.montana.edu/> for evaluation of other important variety performance characteristics to include protein, quality, disease resistance, etc. before making cultivar selection decisions.

2/ P = Private Variety, + = Protected Variety, ++ = PVP Title 5 Pending.

3/ Only the most recent 5 years shown, but summary calculations include all years noted. No harvest in 2014 due to hail.

4/ Percent of Mountrail yield or test weight for the same data years as those in which a given entry was tested.

5/ 9-Yr Comparable Average = (x/y) \* z where x = average yield or test weight of a given entry for years tested, y = average yield or test weight for Mountrail for the same years, and z = 9-Yr average yield or test weight for the check variety Mountrail.

6/ Seeding to 14 days prior to harvest.

**TABLE 3. Nine-Year Protein and Sawfly Summary on Selected Entries from Dryland Fallow Spring Durum Variety Nurseries Grown Off-Station at the Max Cederberg Farm, Turner. Northern Agricultural Research Center. Havre, Montana. 2014-2023. (Exp# 9851-DUR)**

2/ VARIETY or SELECTION	3/ No. of YEARS TESTED	1/ PROTEIN % (Adjusted to 13% Grain Moisture)					SAWFLY RATING (% of Cut and Lodged Stems)										
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	3/ AVE. YEARS TESTED	4/ % CHECK PROTEIN	5/ 9-YR COMP. AVE. PROTEIN	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	3/ AVE. YEARS TESTED	4/ % CHECK SAWFLY	5/ 9-YR COMP. AVE. SAWFLY
MTD18313 MT RASKA (++)	3			17.1	15.4	14.2	15.6	98.9	15.2			0.7	0.0	8.3	3.0	29.0	0.7
MTD18348 MT BLACKBEARD (++)	3			16.1	14.4	14.1	14.9	94.4	14.5			1.0	2.3	8.3	3.9	61.4	1.4
D9715-11 DIVIDE (+)	9	15.0	15.6	16.1	14.6	14.6	15.3	99.7	15.3	0.0	0.7	1.0	1.0	10.0	1.6	67.8	1.6
MTD16005 LUSTRE (++)	6	15.7	16.4	16.8	15.1	15.2	16.0	102.5	15.7	0.0	1.0	2.3	1.0	10.0	2.4	72.1	1.7
D97780 GRE Nora (+)	8	14.9	15.2	16.0	14.6		15.2	98.6	15.1	0.3	0.7	0.7	3.7		0.7	72.7	1.7
CDC Vivid CDC VIVID (P+)	6	15.8	16.7	16.4	15.3		16.3	103.1	15.8	0.3	0.7	2.3	0.7		0.9	77.3	1.8
NDSU ND-RIVELAND (+)	5	15.3	16.0	15.5	14.6	15.5	15.4	99.3	15.2	0.3	0.7	2.3	3.7	8.3	3.1	78.0	1.8
D03028 CARPIO (+)	9	14.9	15.3	15.8	14.3	14.5	15.0	97.9	15.0	0.3	0.7	1.0	5.0	10.0	2.0	85.5	2.0
YU894-75 ALZADA (P+)	7	14.5	15.1		14.5	14.5	15.0	98.5	15.1	0.3	0.3		1.0	16.7	2.7	93.4	2.1
D04581 JOPPA (+)	9	15.2	15.2	15.9	14.5	14.7	15.2	98.8	15.2	0.7	0.3	2.3	2.3	13.3	2.2	96.8	2.2
NDSU ND-GRANO (+)	5	15.3	15.6	16.0	14.5	15.1	15.3	98.7	15.1	1.0	1.0	0.7	3.7	13.3	3.9	100.0	2.3
D901313 MOUNTRAIL (+)	9	15.1	15.1	17.4	14.8	15.0	15.3	100.0	15.3	0.0	0.7	0.3	5.3	13.3	2.3	100.0	2.3
D00095 TIOGA (+)	8	15.4	15.5	16.1	14.5		15.4	100.0	15.3	1.0	0.3	2.3	6.7		1.5	159.0	3.7
MEANS (For Entries Listed)		15.2	15.6	16.3	14.7	14.7			15.2	0.4	0.6	1.4	2.8	11.2			1.9
6/ Growing Season Precipitation (in.)		2.99	5.45	3.48	5.22	4.64	5.89										
Soil PAW (in.) to SD @ Planting		6.30	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.70	6.25										
Total Plant Available Water (in.)		9.30	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.30	14.38										
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3/ Only the most recent 5 years show n, but summary calculations include all years noted. No harvest in 2014 due to hail.

4/ Percent of Mountrail saw fly rating for the same data years as those in which a given entry was tested.

5/ 9-Yr Comparable Average = (x/y) \* z where x = average protein or saw fly rating of a given entry for years tested, y = average protein or saw fly rating for Mountrail for the same years, and z = 9-Yr average protein or saw fly rating for the check variety Mountrail.

6/ Seeding to 14 days prior to harvest.