

Limagrain Cereal Seeds set to release more Hard Red Spring Wheat Varieties

Six new lines will be increased in the Northern Plains for 2013

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORT COLLINS - Limagrain Cereal Seeds (LCS) is set to increase its seed portfolio by an unprecedented six new lines of Hard Red Spring Wheat for the coming growing season.

Dr. Blake Cooper, Limagrain's Senior Breeder for Hard Red Spring Wheat, said the number is far above the norm.

"In a program of average size, you'd have maybe one or two new lines each year," he said. "Part of the expansion is from getting our program really brought up to speed, and the other part is through our international partners."

Cooper said the new varieties do not have names as yet and are still in the experimental phase of their development as seed stock.

The varieties will be increased "as fast as possible, because they all have merit. In 2013, we will have enough seed to carry out on-farm testing, as well as state trials," he said.

The new varieties will be grown in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Idaho and Washington: "They are proving themselves to be tough enough to handle wide variations of climatic conditions," Cooper said.

He went on to say, "These varieties are really interesting. Last year - 2011 - the region was exceedingly wet, and this year was quite dry, but these varieties performed well in both years. That bodes well for them in the long-term, as they can handle both extremes."

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“LCS has ambitious growth plans in the US,” said Frank Curtis, Limagrain’s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. “These varieties will give farmers greater choice in high-quality wheat seed and establish Limagrain Cereal Seeds as a major supplier of leading spring wheat varieties.”

Group Limagrain was founded in France in 1942. The farmer-owned company has 7,000 employees and is the largest seed company in the European Union. Fort Collins, Colorado serves as the North American headquarters of Limagrain Cereal Seeds, the newest subsidiary of Group Limagrain. LCS has regional research stations in Washington, Indiana, Minnesota and Kansas. Visit www.limagraincerealseeds.com.

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