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# *Cody Oats*

HARLAND STEVENS

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# CODY OATS

HARLAND STEVENS<sup>1</sup>

**C**ODY, a very short-strawed, high-yielding oat, was selected from the cross (Victoria x Richland) x Bannock and is a sister selection of the Overland variety. This cross was made at the Aberdeen Branch Experiment Station by F. A. Coffman in 1934.<sup>2</sup> Early experiments indicated its superior yielding ability over Victory, Bannock, or Marida at most locations in Idaho, and these results were substantiated in later tests. Cody lacks the straw strength of Overland but because of its shorter stems it lodges less than Victory, Bannock, or Marida. Tests at Beltsville, Md., Ames, Iowa, and Pullman, Wash., show Cody to be resistant to smut and crown and stem rust. Cody was released to farmers in Wyoming in 1950 and in Washington in 1952 after its exceptional yielding ability had been established. It was increased in 1953 and 1954 for possible release to farmers in Idaho.

In a circular on Overland oats<sup>3</sup> it was pointed out that only occasionally did early-maturing oats yield enough in southern Idaho to justify their acceptance by the farmer. More recently, F. A. Coffman reported that mid-season varieties usually outyield early varieties where summer temperatures are no higher than those of most sections in Idaho.

This explains why midseason varieties such as Victory, Swedish Select, Golden Rain (of Swedish origin), Idamine (selected at Aberdeen, Idaho), and Markton, (a selection made in Oregon from an oat from Turkey) are looked upon with favor by most Idaho farmers.

A complete history of the cross from which Cody was selected and the contributions made by G. A. Wiebe, T. R. Stanton, F. A. Coffman was presented in two earlier publications.<sup>2,3</sup> The disease tests conducted by H. B. Humphrey, H. C. Murphy, and C. S. Holton, which aided in the selection of these varieties, also were described.

## Characteristics and Yield

Cody plants tiller more vigorously than Overland and are yellow-green in color. The panicles are large open and sprangly with exceptionally long panicle branches which droop at the outer ends (see front cover). Cody resembles Markton in yellow-green color, panicle shape and size, and has yellow kernels which are slightly less plump than those of Overland or Victory and on the average has a test weight of around 1 pound less than Overland.

Cody heads nearly 2 days later than Overland, Marida and Markton and 3 days earlier than Bannock and Victory. The plants are 11 to 13 inches shorter than Victory and Bannock when grown under irrigated or humid conditions. Under dry-

<sup>1</sup> Agronomist, Field Crops Research Branch, Agr. Res. Service, U.S.D.A., at Aberdeen, Idaho

<sup>2</sup> Coffman, Franklin A., Stevens, Harland, and Holton, C. S. Overland and Cody, Two New Short-strawed Oats for the Northwest. Agron. Jour. 43 (7) 1951.

<sup>3</sup> Stevens, Harland. Overland Oats. Idaho Agr. Expt. Sta. Cir. 126, March 1953.



Figure 1.—Comparison of Cody and Overland oats. To the right of Howard Roylance, Extension Agronomist, are three rows of Cody oats, showing the heavier, more drooping heads, the heavier tillering and with straw not as erect as in the Overland oats to his left.

land conditions, Cody is approximately 7 inches shorter than Marida and 10 inches shorter than Victory. The short straw of Cody enables it to resist lodging more than the taller Victory, Bannock, Marida and Swedish Select varieties. It does not, however, have straw quality equal to that of Overland. Figure 1 shows a comparison of Cody and Overland in a cereal nursery at Ashton, Idaho.

Cody has been tested at numerous locations in Idaho from 1942 to 1954, inclusive. The average yields and other agronomic data of Cody and other varieties grown in Idaho are given in Table 1. Cody has produced higher average yields of grain than other recommended varieties at all stations except Sandpoint. At Moscow, Cody did

not produce significantly higher yields than Marida. For this reason, Cody is not being recommended for the northern part of the State.

At Aberdeen, under irrigation, Cody has produced the highest average yields of all standard varieties. It surpassed Marida by 6 percent and Overland by 7 percent. At Teton, Cody did not produce significantly higher yields than Marida but it surpassed Overland by 13 percent. The greatest yield differences were found at Ashton. Here the yields of Cody were 11 percent higher than those of Marida and 21 percent above those obtained for Overland.

### Recommendations

This variety is adapted to the light-textured, irrigated soils of

southern and southeastern Idaho. Cody will lodge more than Overland on the heavy-type, fertile, irrigated soils of Idaho and therefore is not recommended to replace Overland as a com-

panion crop under such conditions. Cody is recommended on dryland or non-irrigated areas in southern and southeastern Idaho when short straw is not objectionable.

**Table 1.—Average yield and other characteristics of Cody, Overland, Marida, Bannock and Victory oats, 1943-1953**

Variety	Aberdeen		Moscow		Ashton		Tetonia	
	Years grown	Acre yield	Years grown	Acre yield	Years grown	Acre yield	Years grown	Acre yield
	No.	Bu.	No.	Bu.	No.	Bu.	No.	Bu.
Cody	11	148.3	8	91.8	4	60.0	7	46.4
Overland	11	138.3	8	83.5	4	49.6	7	40.2
Marida	11	139.6	8	90.9	4	53.9	6	45.1
Bannock	11	145.3	6	68.7			2	34.8
Victory	11	139.6	8	91.0			7	34.5

  

Variety	Aberdeen		Moscow		Aberdeen		Moscow	
	Years data	Test weight	Years data	Test weight	Years data	Plant height	Years data	Plant height
	No.	Lb.	No.	Lb.	No.	In.	No.	In.
Cody	9	38.9	8	36.8	9	35	7	35
Overland	9	39.2	8	37.9	9	37	7	36
Marida	9	39.2	8	38.2	9	43	7	44
Bannock	9	39.7	5	36.2	9	44	4	46
Victory	9	39.9	8	37.5	9	47	7	46

  

Variety	Aberdeen		Moscow		Tetonia	
	Years data	Lodging	Years data	Lodging	Years data	Lodging
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Cody	5	9.0	3	33.9	2	48.5
Overland	5	4.0	3	31.2	2	8.5
Marida	5	12.0	3	46.9	2	17.5
Bannock	5	25.5	1	71.6	1	10.0
Victory	5	16.4	3	32.5	2	13.5