

# ARC-Small Grain presents: Usutu and Selons

Two new advanced wheat lines were approved for release in 2020. Multiplications for the two new irrigation cultivars, Usutu and Selons, were planted during 2020 and some seed are expected to be available for purchase by 2022.



Usutu (left) and Selons (right) at Vaalharts research station. Photo: ARC-Small Grain.

## Kim Delport

ARC-SMALL GRAIN, STELLENBOSCH

**THE PAST YEAR WILL** surely be one to remember. Amidst all the fear and confusion, there had been evidence of hope, solidity and a sense of global togetherness. During the initial hard lockdown in March and April 2020, the employees of ARC-Small Grain were hard at work preparing field trials to plant in the Western and Northern Cape. This dedication led to the completion of a successful production cycle.

In May, there was reason for celebration, as two new advanced wheat lines were approved by industry for release. The two new cultivars, Usutu and Selons, will surely develop into industry standards. Multiplications for Usutu and Selons were planted during 2020 and the ARC-Small Grain is expecting some seed to be available for purchase by 2022.

Usutu and Selons are both spring wheat cultivars for the irrigation areas. Usutu has a medium to late growth period with excellent yields and an average straw length of 105 cm. Usutu has not exhibited any lodging problems despite its exceptional yields and large ears.

In terms of disease resistance, Usutu is moderately resistant to leaf rust and moderately susceptible to stripe rust. Over the last four years Usutu has had an average yield of 12 t/ha and during 2019 produced an average yield of 13 t/ha.

Selons on the other hand, has a medium growth period and slightly shorter straw. The average straw length is 95 cm and shows no lodging problems. Similarly to Usutu, Selons is moderately resistant to leaf rust, but is resistant to moderately susceptible to stripe rust. Selons is also capable of high yields, with a four year yield average of 11,4 t/ha. During 2019, Selons produced an average yield of 12,5 t/ha.

Another line approved by the industry earlier in 2020 is Umgeni. Umgeni will without doubt be the new flagship cultivar for the ARC in the irrigation areas. Large seed multiplications for commercialisation will proceed during 2021. The ARC-Small Grain is hopeful that Umgeni will be available for purchase during 2023.

Umgeni has a short growth period and exceptional yields. During 2019 Umgeni produced an average yield of 13 t/ha

and has a two year yield average of 12,5 t/ha. Apart from its superb yield potential, Umgeni is also moderately resistant to leaf rust and resistant to stripe rust.

With these new cultivars, as well as the current cultivars on offer, the ARC-Small Grain has a complete package that suits the needs of all producers. Renoster and Koedoes are currently available for purchase and are excellent cultivars in their own right. Both Renoster and Koedoes have short growth periods and average yields of 11 t/ha. During 2019 both Renoster and Koedoes realised yields of 12 t/ha.

For further information, please contact Kim Delport at 021 809 3558 or e-mail her at [coetzeek@arc.agric.za](mailto:coetzeek@arc.agric.za).



ARC-Small Grain cultivars at Modderivier open day 2020. Photo: ARC-Small Grain.

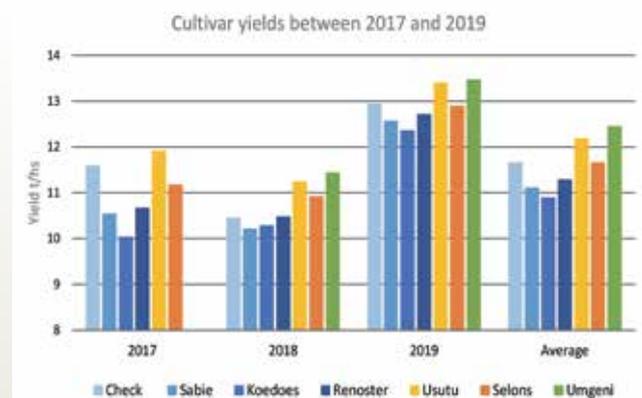


Figure 1. Cultivar yields between 2017 and 2019.