

Enhancing Diversity and Productivity of the California Oat Crop: Eight New Varieties

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Eight new varieties from the University of California, Davis, were described in May, 2012, in [Agronomy Progress Report No. 305](#). The variety descriptions include statements about PVP and licensing for each variety. Information about seed availability can be obtained from the University of California Foundation Seed Program, Department of Plant Sciences, Davis, CA 95616. The oat breeding team included two former graduate students, Pamela Zwer and [Luiz Federizzi](#). Six of the varieties resulted from their genetic and breeding work at Davis. As a group, the eight varieties had multi-year grain yield advantage of 23% over a popular standard, Montezuma, and 14% advantage in forage (hay) production over Montezuma.

UC 142 was bred by [Howard Harrison](#) (deceased), a very productive oat breeder with Coker Pedigreed Seeds (CPS). CPS was purchased by another company, and, eventually, oat breeding was dropped and all CPS lines were donated to the USDA National Small Grains Collection. Breeders were invited to evaluate the materials and use them as they wished. With permission of the Harrison family, we named UC 142, one of those lines, 'Howard'.

UC 129 was selected from the Quaker Oats Cooperative Nursery when it was grown at Davis. This line was bred by [Milton \(Mac\) McDaniel](#) at Texas A & M Univ. The line is named 'Mac' and is available for production with coordination from Texas A&M.

There are no further updates on these varieties, but 5 of the 6 varieties with PVP Certificates have been licensed to seed companies, and sales and production are progressing. Howard was not submitted for PVP and is gaining some following as a public variety through the UC Davis Foundation Seed Program.