

From the National Oat Newsletter, volume 3, 1952:

JOHN MILTON POEHLMAN
"Oat Man of the Year"

By T. R. Stanton

The undersigned wishes to nominate Dr. Poehlman, Agronomist, University of Missouri as "Oat Man of the Year" for 1952, on the basis of his development of Mo. 0-205, an oat of outstanding performance.

In spite of a rather generally unfavorable season for oats in 1952 Mo. 0-205 outyielded most other promising new varieties in widely distributed tests in the southern and central Corn Belt areas. In common parlance it surely "went to town" and its performance was one of the chief topics of interest and discussion at the meeting of the National Oat Conference held at Cincinnati, Ohio, last November.

Mo. 0-205 was released in 1951, and, according to Dr. Poehlman, some 45,000 acres will be sown to it in Missouri and 15,000 acres or more in other states in 1953.

Mo. 0-205 originated from a cross of Columbia x a Victoria-Richland selection made at Columbia, Mo., by the late B. M. King in 1936. Subsequent selection and testing, including the final selection later named Mo. 0-205, were made by Dr. Poehlman. Consequently, he is the individual primarily responsible for its development.

The outstanding characteristics of Mo. 0-205 are high yield and test weight, strong straw with a vigorous and well developed root system, and resistance to Victoria blight, smuts and rusts.

Mo. 0-205 appears to be best adapted to the area where Columbia has long been a leading variety and where it apparently will replace Columbia. Indications are that Mo. 0-205 will be grown much more extensively farther north in the Corn Belt than has Columbia.

Dr. Poehlman was born at Macon, Mo., May 9, 1910, and was granted the B.S.A. degree in 1931 from the University of Missouri and a Ph.D. degree in Botany in 1936 from the same institution. Beginning 1934, he has been an instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and since 1950 Professor of Field Crops at his Alma Mater. His chief lines of work have involved breeding and physiology of wheat, oats, and barley, and smut resistance in winter barley. Dr. Poehlman's principal plant breeding productions other than Mo. 0-205 oats have been Mo. 0-200 oats released in 1949, and Mo. B-400 winter barley, released in 1950. This new winter barley will be grown on about 80% of the 1953 Missouri acreage.

During World War II, Dr. Poehlman was stationed at the Belle Glade (Florida) experiment Station from October 15, 1943 to April 15, 1944 where he was engaged in a

special war emergency breeding project on the rubber dandelion (Taraxacum Kok-Saghys) as an Associate Agronomist, in the Division of Rubber Plant Investigations, B.P.I.S.A.E., U. S. Department of Agriculture. From June 5 to August 8, 1950 he traveled in Europe and visited plant-breeding stations and other research institutions in France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, England, Scotland and Wales. While in Europe he attended the 7th International Botanical Congress at Stockholm, Sweden where he read a paper on "Breeding Winter Barley for Hardiness and Disease Resistance" before the section on Agronomic Botany.