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RE: Research trials with Juniper oats

We have been surprised at the performance of oats in our silage trials near Lethbridge. Most of the locations (3 in 2000 and 2 locations in 2001). 3 of the 5 sites were heavily manured and had been cropped to continuous barley which would have advantaged oats versus barley because of disease.

We used Mustang oats last summer for a 32 acre demonstration with only limited water (10 inches of irrigation + 3 inches of rainfall) and moderate fertilizer. The field went about 3.5 ton (DM) with no lodging. There was no side by side comparison but corn in the next field yielded about 6 ton with 18 inches of irrigation and barley about 8 ton with 9 inches of irrigation. This was the situation I had described over the phone to the client that you had referred to in your message (mustang vs juniper).

In our side by side trials we picked Juniper because it was rated slightly better for lodging. We should have also included Mustang in hind-sight. Juniper was superior to AC Lacombe but not as good as CDC Earl for lodging at 3 locations. Two of the sites had no incidence of lodging with any of the cereal types (several barley's, triticale's, winter cereal's and juniper oats). Quality was good for all of the cereal types (ADF/NDF and protein).

Here are a few of the crops, averaged over the five sites in 2000 and 2001 for yield (DM ton/acre)

Pronghorn triticale	5.0
AC Harper or Lacombe barley	4.8
CDC Earl barley	4.3
Juniper oats	6.0

Regards, Rob Dunn