



MASTIN SEEDS

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Bob began pedigree seed production in the spring of 1978 with the variety Athabasca oats and produced pedigree crops of this variety right up to and including 2004.

It was while attending Olds College that Bob realized that the small family farm must expand to remain viable. Bob decided to look to the farm's biggest asset - clean land, which it still has today. The farm is surrounded by hay and pasture land, cattle ranches and trees. Being in a non traditional grain production area, but with the growing season of Olds, has many advantages.

While taking field crop courses at Olds College, Bob was able to investigate what was involved in being a seed grower. In Economics class he was able to do actual case studies on seed production and soon discovered seed oat production was very attractive, especially for his location.

Based on this, Mastin Seeds has grown in the area of seed production with a focus on feed barley and oats. This direction proved very beneficial for Mastin Seeds and the results were visible in the awards brought home from seed shows.

Mastin Seeds has won numerous seed awards throughout Western Canada, the most noteworthy being, winner of the Pedigree Oats Title at the Calgary Seed Fair and Hay Show an unprecedented *eight* times.

In 2003, Bob Mastin was a Grand Aggregate Winner, and in another year, had the best pedigreed cereal with a sample of Athabasca oats, which was a small coupe for an oat sample to win. In the four times Bob has entered the Seager Wheeler Seed Show, he won in 2000 and 2005, placed third in 2001 and second in 2002.

Mastin Seeds has also won awards in Lethbridge and Edmonton, with the most recent being the Grand Aggregate Cereal winner with a sample of AC Mustang Oats at the Northlands Pedigreed Seed Show in March of 2007.

With the very unfortunate passing of Solomon Kibite, Canada's top oat breeder, which left Alberta without on Oat breeding program. Mastin Seeds started some very basic oat selections, with the ultimate goal of eventually developing some new varieties to suit customers needs and that were adapted to Alberta.

It was with one of these selections that Mastin Seeds won the 2005 Seager Wheeler Seed Show. The winning sample was so very unique and superior to any other entry, people including the press, were wanting to know why this sample of Waldern Oats was so different. When Bob explained he had been using the very same selection methods Seager Wheeler had used 100 years earlier to greatly improve wheat varieties in Western Canada, and to win numerous world wheat championships, the press was interested in doing a story. A feature article appeared in both the

Western Producer and Grain News. The Grain News article is included in this section's newspaper articles.

This experience helped Mastin Seeds enter a new area of growth in 2006 by acquiring the rights for two seed varieties: Sundre Barley and AC Mustang Oats.



Photo: Bob Mastin at 5 1/2 years old driving a Model C Case tractor, cutting Rodney oats with a binder. It was not a staged shot. Bob's been harvesting seed oats for a long time and even remembers stooking.