2021 Spring Emmer Variety Trial

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Spring emmer (*Triticum dicoccon*) is an ancient two-rowed hulled wheat, also known as farro. Emmer was domesticated in the Fertile Crescent and was widely cultivated in the ancient world, but has since been replaced with higher yielding modern wheat varieties. Emmer is high in protein and as the ancestor of durum wheat, may be a suitable grain for producing pasta and flatbreads. There is an increasing consumer interest in locally grown grain for human consumption, and this has expanded the demand for end-products such as breads and pastries. Food grade grains will usually bring a premium price, but growers must also meet the higher quality standards, which can be difficult since there is very little information on emmer production in the Northeast. Varietal selection is one of the most important aspects of crop production and significantly influences yield potential. In 2021, the University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crops and Soils (NWCS) Program initiated a trial to evaluate yields and protein of eight spring emmer varieties.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In 2021, a spring emmer variety performance trial was conducted at Borderview Research Farm in Alburgh, VT. Eight spring emmer varieties were evaluated for yield and quality (Table 1).

Table 1. Spring emmer varieties planted in Alburgh, VT, 2021.

Variety	Seed source
CDC Tetra[+]	University of Maine
CDC Yon[+]	University of Maine
Debra[+]	Cornell University

Table 2. Agronomic practices for the 2021 spring emmer variety trial, Alburgh, VT.

Location	Borderview Research Farm, Alburgh VT
Soil type	Covington silty clay loam, 0-3% slope
Previous crop	Soybeans
Tillage operations	TerraDisc, and spike tooth harrow

RESULTS

Weather data was recorded with a Davis Instrument Vantage Pro2 weather station, equipped with a WeatherLink data logger at Borderview Research Farm in Alburgh, VT (Table 3). Temperatures in April, May and June were slightly warmer than normal, resulting in 170 more Growing Degree Days (GDDs) than the 30-year average. July was quite cool, averaging about 4.3 degrees below the 30-year average and

conduct more research on spring emmer varieties to determine which ones will do well in this region. The UVM Northwest Crops and Soils Program plans to repeat this trial again in 2022.

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