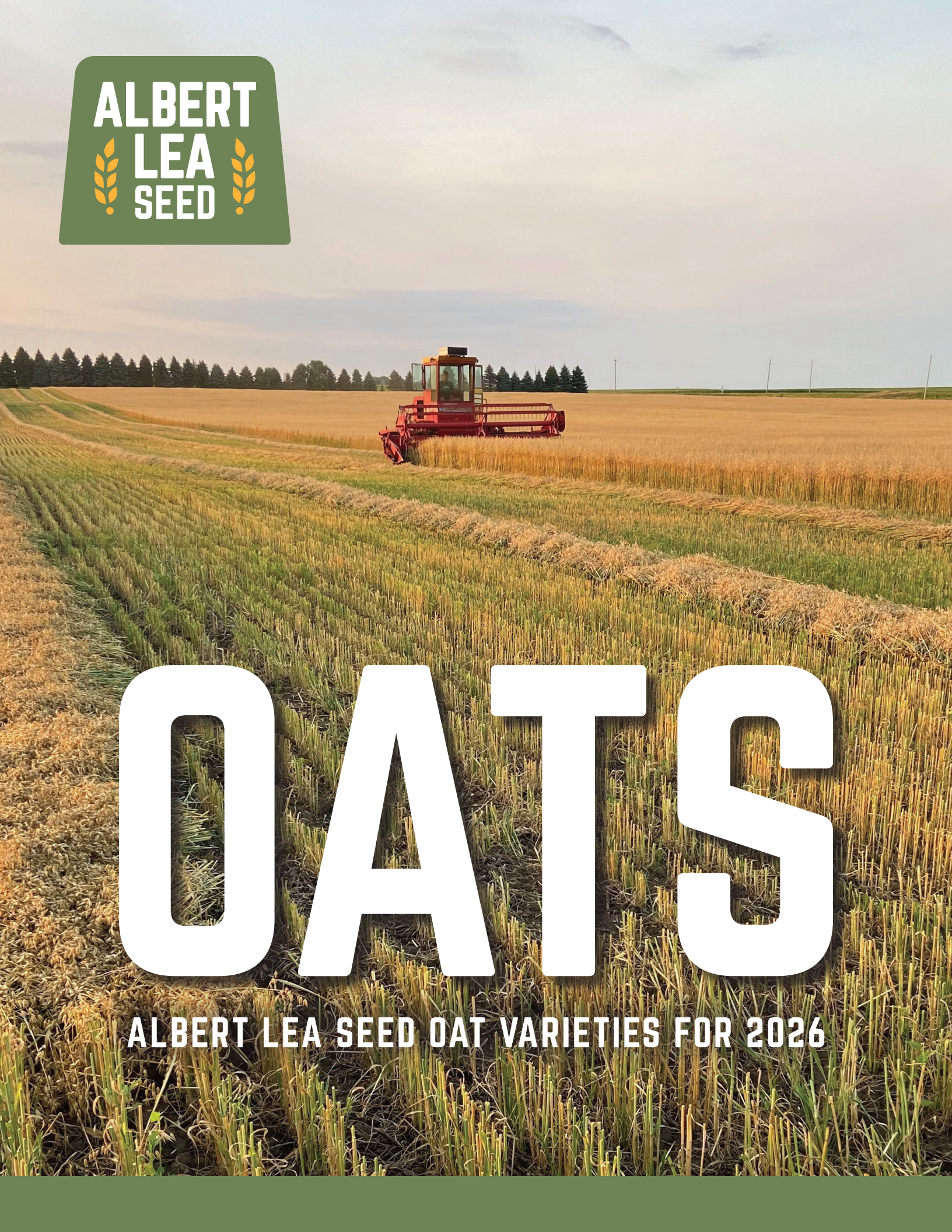


The logo for Albert Lea Seed is located in the top left corner. It consists of a green trapezoidal background. Inside, the word "ALBERT" is at the top in white. Below it, the word "LEA" is in a larger white font, flanked by two stylized yellow wheat stalks. At the bottom, the word "SEED" is in white.

**ALBERT
LEA
SEED**

The background of the entire page is a photograph of an oat field during harvest. A red combine harvester is visible in the middle ground, moving through the golden-brown oat stalks. The field is vast and flat, with a line of trees on the horizon under a pale, overcast sky.

OATS

ALBERT LEA SEED OAT VARIETIES FOR 2026

WHY GROW OATS?

If you are reading this, you likely already have a good reason to be interested in oats. Maybe you need to establish alfalfa, maybe you need the straw (or have a good market for straw), maybe you want to grow your own Nitrogen with an underseeded red clover or other legume, maybe you need an early-harvest crop so that you have a place to spread manure in the middle of the summer or do some tiling, or maybe you actually have a good market for oats.

WHO BUYS OATS?

We always recommend identifying your market before you plant. There is a new oat mill opening in Albert Lea, MN in the summer of 2026 (Green Acres Milling). There is the long-established buyer of oats in St. Ansgar, Iowa (Grain Millers), and there are likely many other buyers in your region (see QR code below).

WHY IS IT TOUGH TO GROW GOOD-QUALITY OATS?

Basically, oats are best adapted to dry and cool environments. So, unless you farm in North Dakota or Saskatchewan, you have to work to tilt the field in your favor. The last couple of years have been particularly tough years to grow oats in southern MN and northern IA. It simply rained too much and got too hot too early.

WHAT CAN I DO TO INCREASE MY CHANCES OF PRODUCING GOOD-QUALITY OATS?

- Plant as early as you can
- Plant a variety that consistently has very good test weight
- Plant a variety that has good resistance to Crown Rust
- Early-heading varieties tend to perform better in southern MN, northern IA, and central & southern WI
- Conventional farmers should consider applying a fungicide if conditions are conducive to Crown Rust
- Watch rotational restriction intervals on grass herbicides
- Plant as early as you can (yes, I know we wrote this twice!)

RESOURCES ON OAT PRODUCTION

Our website has a number of excellent resources on oat production (navigate to any oat variety and click on "resources"), or just give us a call!



Mac Ehrhardt, Chairman



SHOP OATS



VIEW TRIALS



FIND A BUYER



SUMO

- Good choice for underseeding with alfalfa and for producing milling-quality oats
- Selected specifically for Organic farms
- Early, medium-short, good standing
- Consistently heavy test weight
- Moderate resistance to crown rust, susceptible to BYDV
- Generally lower-yielding in trials, but has consistently good on-farm performance
- White Oat

Available as:



REINS

- Great choice for underseeding with alfalfa and for producing milling-quality oats
- Early, short, very good standing
- Consistently heavy test weight
- Moderately susceptible to crown rust, conventional growers should consider fungicide
- Good yielding, especially for an early oat
- Not a good choice to maximize straw production
- White oat

Available as: Conventional or  Organic

NEW FRED

- New oat with outstanding test weight and good crown rust resistance
- Medium-early maturity, medium-tall, below average lodging resistance
- Out-yielding Rushmore and Buffalo in U. of MN southern zone (2025) and in SD testing for three years
- Very heavy test weight (heavier than Shelby, Rushmore, Warrior, Reins, Sumo)
- Best-adapted west of I-35 in MN, IA, SD, and NE
- Avoid heavily fertilized fields to manage lodging susceptibility
- White oat, released & licensed to Albert Lea Seed by SDSU in 2024

Available as:

Conventional

SD BUFFALO

- High yielding oat for grain and straw production
- Medium height, medium-tall, average lodging resistance
- Good test weight
- Moderately susceptible to crown rust
- Avoid heavily fertilized fields to manage lodging susceptibility
- White oat, released by SDSU

Available as: Conventional or  Organic

SD RUSHMORE

- Great choice for oat and straw production
- Medium maturity, medium height, average lodging
- Proven high yields and test weight
- Moderately susceptible to crown rust and BYDV
- White oat, released by SDSU

Available as: **Conventional** or  **Organic**

ND HEART

- Best cover crop oat for grazing or haying or biomass
- Much better crown rust resistance than Morton or Jerry for higher yields of better quality forage
- Non-PVP variety can be legally sold as Non-Certified seed
- Medium-late maturity, medium tall, average lodging
- White oat, released by NDSU

Available as: **Conventional** or  **Organic**

NEW SD RANGER

- New oat with good milling potential, expected to replace Rushmore (averaged 16 Bu. more than Rushmore in 3 years of SDSU trials)
- Medium-late maturity, medium height, average standing
- Heavy test weight in 3 years of SD testing (equal or better than Rushmore or Buffalo)
- Good performance in Practical Farmers of Iowa testing (2025)
- # 1 for yield in Miller & Volga SD locations, 2025
- New oat with very good resistance to crown rust
- Avoid heavily fertilized fields to manage lodging susceptibility
- White oat, released by SDSU in 2024

Available as: **Conventional**

MINK

- Highest yielding oat tested by the U. of MN for three years in a row (Statewide). Below average yields in WI
- Latest heading oat tested by the U. of MN (though WI rates it as medium maturity)
- Tall with good lodging resistance
- Very good crown rust resistance
- Average test weight
- Yellow oat, released by U. of WI

Available as: **Conventional**

NEW SD MOMENTUM

- Late, tall oat to maximize grain and straw production
- 2nd highest-yielding oat in U. of MN Trials for two years
- 2nd highest test weight oat in U. of MN Trials
- Very good crown rust resistance
- 143 Bu./acre two-year average statewide in U. of MN Trials (2025)
- White oat, released by SDSU

Available as: **Conventional**

U OF MN TRIALS 2025	Variety	Seed Color	Days to Heading	Height (inches)	Straw Strength	Test Weight	2025 Grain Millers List	Crown Rust	2024 BYDV	2025 Smut	2025 Yield (S. MN)	2-Yr Avg Yield (S. MN)
	Sumo	White	56	39	4	38.0	Yes	4	4	1	99	104
	Reins	White	56	33	3	37.7	Yes	7	4	1	96	103
	Fred	Yellow	59	42	6	38.8	ID	ID	ID	ID	104	ID
	SD Buffalo	White	61	41	4	37.3	Yes	6	ID	3	90	100
	SD Rushmore	White	59	40	4	37.9	Yes	6	4	5	88	103
	ND Heart	White	61	41	4	37.0	ID	5	4	7	81	94
	Mink	Yellow	65	41	3	35.4	No	2	ID	1	118	126
	SD Momentum	White	64	51	5	39.0	ID	2	ID	1	110	119

SDSU TRIALS 2022-2023	Variety	Seed Color	Julian Date of Heading	Height (inches)	Lodging Score	Test Weight	Crown Rust	2024 BYDV	2-Yr Avg Yield
	Fred	Yellow	169.0	35.0	1.6	37.0	3.0	4.3	105.0
	SD Buffalo	White	170.6	33.2	1.9	35.1	6.0	4.2	110.8
	SD Rushmore	White	171.0	32.8	2.1	36.1	6.5	5.0	100.4
	SD Ranger	White	172.6	33.4	2.1	36.2	3.5	5.7	114.6

U OF WI TRIALS 2025	Variety	Seed Color	Maturity (Days after 5-31)	Height (inches)	Lodging %	Test Weight	Crown Rust	2024 BYDV	2025 Yield	2-Yr Avg Yield
	Sumo	White	22	35	14%	41	2	3	82	78
	Reins	White	25	32	10%	40	4	3	95	90
	SD Buffalo	White	26	37	10%	41	3	ID	103	100
	SD Rushmore	White	26	36	21%	41	3	2	101	98
	ND Heart	White	27	37	36%	39	3	4	85	80
	Mink	Yellow	24	29	14%	41	4	1	74	76

All tables are excerpts of state trials. For complete trials, visit alseed.com/trial-data. **U of MN** straw strength, disease ratings: 0 = best, 9 = worst. **SDSU** lodging: 1 = best, 5 = worst; disease ratings: 1 = best, 9 = worst. **U of WI** lodging listed as % of plants lodged; disease ratings: 0 = best, 9 = worst. All tables: ID = insufficient data.



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OATS FOR EVERY NEED

Albert Lea Seed offers a wide range of both organic and conventional seed oats for a variety of needs. Product details for many of our oats are inside. To learn more call **800.352.5247**, visit **alseed.com**, or scan a QR code below.



SHOP OATS



VIEW TRIALS



FIND A BUYER

