Dear Minnesota Growers:

You’ll be hearing the phrase, “Driven to Discover” a lot more from the University of Minnesota in the coming year. It is our way of explaining our research and outreach mission and our goal to become one of the top three public research universities in the world.

There is probably no better example of this drive to discover than the University of Minnesota plant breeding and genetics programs. The Varietal Trials Results in this booklet are part of a larger program focused on finding the best plants that survive our winters, help build our economy and contribute to our quality of life.

The University of Minnesota plant genetics and breeding programs have three goals:

• Discovering new knowledge about plant breeding and plant genetics
• Educating graduate and undergraduate students
• Developing plant germplasm, genetic stocks and varieties

When early settlers arrived in Minnesota they carried with them plants from the East. Many of these plants suffered severe winter injuries and early frosts when planted in Minnesota. The University of Minnesota plant breeding program began as a drive to discover plants that would survive Minnesota winters.

The first agronomic crop varieties released by the University of Minnesota were hard red spring wheat varieties released in the 1890s. Since that time the University has released more than 450 agronomic crop varieties. These varieties are selected for unique characteristics that include increased number of bushels harvested, resistance to pests, unique industrial and nutritional profiles, and appeal to end users.
Since its origin in the 1880s, the University's horticulture program has named and released more than 100 varieties of fruits, more than 100 flowering plants and more than 60 vegetable varieties.

Our drive to discover better plants for Minnesota is not a trip we take alone. We make the journey with funding and support from growers, the state, and the federal government. This journey to research results that make a difference is important. As University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks said, “Research is what differentiates the University of Minnesota from other higher education institutions in the state, and that research has contributed immensely to the health, well-being and prosperity of our citizens.”

Thank you for your support of the University of Minnesota.

Beverly R. Dungan
Director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station
Dean of the University of Minnesota Extension Service