Registration of ‘Thunder CL’ Wheat

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ABSTRACT

‘Thunder CL’ (Reg. No. CV-1031, PI 655528) hard white winter wheat (Triticum aestivum L.) was developed by the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station and released in August 2008 through a marketing agreement with the Colorado Wheat Research Foundation. In addition to researchers at Colorado State University (CSU), USDA–ARS researchers at Manhattan, KS, St. Paul, MN, and Pullman, WA, participated in the development of Thunder CL. Thunder CL was selected from the cross KS01-5539/CO99W165 made in 2000 at Fort Collins, CO. KS01-5539 is an unreleased experimental line from Kansas State University with the pedigree FS2/KS97HW150/KS97HW349, and CO99W165 is an unreleased experimental line from CSU with the pedigree KS92WGRC25/‘Halt’. Thunder CL was derived from a population advanced from the F2 to F5 by single-seed descent. Thunder CL was selected as an F6 line in September 2003 and assigned experimental line number CO03W239. Thunder CL was released because of its superior grain yield under nonirrigated and irrigated production conditions in eastern Colorado, it carries the AlsI gene for tolerance to imazamox herbicide, it is moderately resistant to wheat streak mosaic virus, stripe rust (Puccinia striiformis f. sp. tritici), and stem rust (P. graminis f. sp. tritici), and it has superior milling and bread baking quality.

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Abbreviations: CSU, Colorado State University; PPO, polyphenol oxidase; SRPN, Southern Regional Performance Nursery.

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Methods

Thunder CL was developed using the single-seed descent breeding procedure. All early-generation population development was done in the greenhouse or an irrigated field-
testing location at Fort Collins, CO. The cross between the parents, designated as cross-population X001725, was made in the greenhouse in fall 2000. The F₁ seed was harvested in January 2001 and planted in a field nursery in mid-February 2001. Seed from the F₁ plants was harvested in bulk in July 2001. A subsample of approximately 150 F₂ seeds was vernalized in a cold room for 8 wk at 2°C before planting in the greenhouse in October 2001. A single seed was harvested from each F₂ plant and vernalized for planting the F₃ generation in the greenhouse in March 2002. A single seed was harvested from each F₃ plant in June 2002 and vernalized for planting the F₄ in the greenhouse in October 2002. A single spike was harvested from each of the 79 F₄ plants in February 2003. Following vernalization, seedlings were hand-transplanted in May 2003 to a field nursery in the San Luis Valley at Center, CO. On the basis of visual observations of uniformity, Thunder CL was selected as an F₄ line in early September 2003 and assigned experimental designation CO03W239.

Thunder CL was evaluated in eastern Colorado in a preliminary yield trial in 2004, advanced yield trials in 2005, the CSU Elite Trial from 2006 to 2008, statewide nonirrigated and irrigated variety trials from 2006 to 2008, and the Southern Regional Performance Nursery (SRPN) in 2007 and 2008. Seed purification of Thunder CL was done by headrow progeny purification beginning with harvest of a group of visually uniform headrows grown under irrigation at Fort Collins in 2006. Progeny plots from these headrows were grown at Fort Collins in 2007 and treated with an aqueous solution of imazamox herbicide (105 g active ingredient ha⁻¹). Following NaOH testing (Ram et al., 2002) to confirm kernel color purity, seed harvested from 19 progeny plots was bulked to form Breeder seed to plant a 1.6-ha Foundation seed increase in 2008.

All statistical analyses were done using SAS-JMP Version 7.0.2 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC). Agronomic, disease resistance, and end-use quality data were analyzed by the Student’s paired t test procedure. Yield and grain volume weight data from the CSU Elite Trial and statewide variety trials were subjected to combined analysis of variance across location-years. Only entries common to the trials across all years were included. Combined analyses were also done according to a mixed model with genotypes and location-year combinations as fixed factors and replications within location-year combinations as a random factor. Tukey’s HSD test (α = 0.05) was used to compare the least squares means for the genotype effects.

**Characteristics**

**Agronomic and Botanical Description**

Thunder CL is an awned, white-glumed, hard white winter wheat. Thunder CL has medium-early maturity, 143.2 d to heading from 1 January, 2.0 d earlier (P < 0.05; n = 10) than ‘Hatcher’ (PI 638512; Haley et al., 2005) and 2.5 d later (P < 0.05) than ‘Above’ (PI 631449; Haley et al., 2003). Plant height of Thunder CL is medium-short (67.0 cm; n = 53), similar (P > 0.05) to Hatcher and Above. Coleoptile length of Thunder CL (74.1 mm; n = 10) is similar to that of Hatcher (77.7 mm, P > 0.05) and shorter than that of Above (85.5 mm, P < 0.05). Straw strength of Thunder CL is good (3.5 score, n = 8; 1 = erect to 9 = fl at scale), similar to ‘Bond CL’ (PI 639924; Haley et al., 2006) (5.4 score, P > 0.05) and better than Hatcher (7.3 score, P < 0.05). No objective data are available for winterhardiness of Thunder CL, but field observations and performance under extremely dry soil conditions during recent winters in Colorado suggest that it is at least adequate for successful production in the central Great Plains region.

Thunder CL has a prostrate juvenile plant growth habit with a green plant color at the boot stage and a coleoptile that lacks anthocyanin pigment. Flag leaves of Thunder CL are erect, not twisted, and show a waxy bloom at the boat stage. Thunder CL has middense (laxidense), inclined, and tapering heads with white awns. Thunder CL has white, nonpubescent glumes that are medium length and medium width with oblique, narrow shoulders and narrow, acuminate beaks. Thunder CL has kernels that are ovate, white, and hard textured with a medium length noncolored brush, a rounded cheek, a narrow and shallow crease, a midsize germ, and a medium brown phenol reaction.

**Disease and Insect Resistance**

Thunder CL has been characterized for disease and insect resistance in Colorado and through cooperative evaluations of the USDA Regional Testing Program. Thunder CL is susceptible to moderately susceptible to stem rust (races QFCS, QTHJ, RCRS, RKQQ, TPMK, TTTT, and TTKSK) in greenhouse seedling evaluations. It displayed a moderately susceptible infection response with reduced disease severity (ranging from 20 to 40%, compared with 80% for susceptible checks) in field stem rust nurseries at St. Paul, MN, between 2006 and 2008. Thunder CL expresses the pseudo-black chaff trait in some environments. The low field stem rust severity and the pseudo-black chaff trait suggest that Thunder CL carries the Sr2 gene for adult plant stem rust resistance. Microsatellite markers gwm533 and stms595gag that are associated with Sr2 (Hayden et al., 2004) are present in Thunder CL. Greenhouse seedling evaluations with leaf rust (Puccinia triticina) suggest that Thunder CL is susceptible to most common leaf rust races (MCRY, THBJ, MJBJ, MHDS, KFBJ, TNRJ, MFPSC, and mLDSB) while a resistant reaction to race TGBG suggests that Thunder CL carries the Lr14a resistance gene. Under natural field infection with unknown leaf rust races in Colorado and western Kansas in 2007 and 2008, Thunder CL was moderately susceptible (5.0 score, 1 = resistant and 9 = susceptible, n = 5) similar to Hatcher (4.4 score, P > 0.05) and more resistant than Above (8.0 score, P < 0.05). In greenhouse seedling evaluations under low temperatures, Thunder CL was consistently susceptible (infection types 8 to 9) to races PST-17, PST-37, PST-45, PST-100, and PST-116 of stripe rust. In greenhouse adult-plant tests under higher temperatures, Thunder CL was resistant (infection types 2 to 3) to races PST-45, PST-116, and PST-127. In field tests under natural stripe rust infection in 2007 and 2008, Thunder CL was resistant (infection types 2 to 3) with 20 to 30% severities near Pullman, WA, in both years (susceptible checks had infection type 8 and 80–100%
severities). Under natural field infection dominated by races PST-100 and PST-131 in Colorado in 2007, Thunder CL was moderately resistant (2.7 score, 1 = resistant and 9 = susceptible, n = 6), similar to Hatcher (2.8 score, P > 0.05) and more resistant than Above (7.6 score, P < 0.05). The susceptibility of seedlings at low temperatures and resistance of adult plants in greenhouse and field tests at higher temperatures suggest that Thunder CL has high temperature adult-plant resistance to stripe rust.

Other evaluations in Colorado or through the USDA Regional Testing Program have shown that Thunder CL is moderately resistant to wheat streak mosaic virus, susceptible to barley yellow dwarf virus and wheat soilborne mosaic virus, heterogeneous for resistance to a collection of endemic biotypes of the Hessian fly [Mayetiola destructor (Say)] collected in Kansas, and susceptible to greenbug Biotype E [Schizaphis graminum (Rondani)]. In greenhouse seedling screening tests in Colorado, Thunder CL was resistant to Russian wheat aphid (Diuraphis noxia Kurdjumov) Biotype 1 and susceptible to Russian wheat aphid Biotype 2.

### Field Performance

Thunder CL was tested at 25 trial locations of the CSU Elite Trial during 2006 (5 locations), 2007 (11 locations), and 2008 (9 locations). In the combined analysis across years, grain yield of Thunder CL was the third highest in the trials (2861 kg ha⁻¹), similar (P > 0.05) to ‘Bill Brown’ (PI 653260; Haley et al., 2008) (3029 kg ha⁻¹), Hatcher (2950 kg ha⁻¹), and the imazamox-tolerant checks Bond CL (2818 kg ha⁻¹) and Above (2760 kg ha⁻¹). In these trials, Thunder CL had average grain volume weight (763 kg m⁻³), similar to Hatcher (768 kg m⁻³, P > 0.05) and greater than (P < 0.05) Above (752 kg m⁻³) and Bond CL (747 kg m⁻³).

Thunder CL was tested at 28 trial locations of the nonirrigated Colorado Uniform Variety Performance Trial during 2006 (11 locations), 2007 (11 locations), and 2008 (6 locations). In the combined analysis across years, grain yield of Thunder CL (2784 kg ha⁻¹) was less than Hatcher (2945 kg ha⁻¹, P < 0.05), similar (P > 0.05) to ‘Ripper’ (PI 644222; Haley et al., 2007) (2817 kg ha⁻¹), Bill Brown (2793 kg ha⁻¹), and the imazamox-tolerant checks Bond CL (2761 kg ha⁻¹) and Above (2750 kg ha⁻¹), and greater than ‘Danby’ (PI 648010) (2669 kg ha⁻¹, P = 0.06) and ‘Trego’ (PI 612576; Martin et al., 2001) (2635 kg ha⁻¹, P < 0.05). In these trials, Thunder CL had below-average grain volume weight (747 kg m⁻³), slightly less than Hatcher (759 kg m⁻³, P < 0.05), similar to Above (744 kg m⁻³, P > 0.05), and greater than Bond CL (740 kg m⁻³, P < 0.05).

Thunder CL was tested at nine trial locations of the Colorado Irrigated Variety Performance Trial during 2006 (three locations), 2007 (three locations), and 2008 (three locations). In the combined analysis across years, grain yield of Thunder CL (5767 kg ha⁻¹) was similar (P > 0.05) to Bond CL (6002 kg ha⁻¹), ‘TAM 111’ (PI 631352; Lazár et al., 2004) (5889 kg ha⁻¹), and Bill Brown (5886 kg ha⁻¹), and greater (P < 0.05) than ‘Prairie Red’ (PI 605390; Quick et al., 2001) (5360 kg ha⁻¹). In these trials, Thunder CL had average grain volume weight (761 kg m⁻³), less than (P < 0.05) TAM 111 (772 kg m⁻³) and Bill Brown (769 kg m⁻³), and greater than Bond CL (747 kg m⁻³, P < 0.05).

Thunder CL was tested in the 2007 and 2008 SRPN. Averaged across 10 locations in the High Plains region, Thunder CL was the 24th highest yielding entry in 2007 (3755 kg ha⁻¹; 50 total entries) and the 16th highest entry in 2008 (3722 kg ha⁻¹; 50 total entries).

### End-Use Quality

Milling and bread baking characteristics of Thunder CL were determined using approved methods of the American Association of Cereal Chemists (AACC, 2000) in the CSU Wheat Quality Laboratory from multiple grain samples from the 2005, 2006, and 2007 seasons. Hatcher, Above, and Danby were included as checks in these evaluations. Values for milling-related variables were generally good for Thunder CL relative to the checks, with comparable kernel characteristics, flour extraction, and grain protein concentration (Table 1). On the basis of single kernel characterization system analysis, Thunder CL had lower kernel weight than Hatcher and Above with slightly harder kernel texture than Hatcher. Wheat ash and Brabender Quadrumat Senior

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Comparisons</th>
<th>Thunder CL</th>
<th>Above</th>
<th>Danby</th>
<th>Hatcher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SKCS kernel weight (mg)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>27.7*</td>
<td>26.6 ns</td>
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<td>2.52</td>
<td>2.56 ns</td>
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<td>Wheat protein (g kg⁻¹)</td>
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<td>138</td>
<td>145*</td>
<td>149*</td>
<td>139 ns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheat ash (g kg⁻¹)</td>
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<td>14.9</td>
<td>15.7*</td>
<td>14.4*</td>
<td>15.4 ns</td>
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<td>Flour extraction (g kg⁻¹)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>661</td>
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<td>654 ns</td>
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<td>Mixograph peak time (min)</td>
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<td>5.1</td>
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<td>2.8*</td>
<td>4.5*</td>
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<td>Mixograph peak width (%)</td>
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<td>22.2</td>
<td>18.2*</td>
<td>18.3*</td>
<td>20.2*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mixograph right width (%)</td>
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<td>12.6</td>
<td>8.9*</td>
<td>8.5*</td>
<td>13.5 ns</td>
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<td>Mixograph tolerance score</td>
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<td>3.8 ns</td>
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<td>Bake water absorption (g kg⁻¹)</td>
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<td>650</td>
<td>659 ns</td>
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<td>657 ns</td>
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<td>2.4*</td>
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<td>Loaf volume (L)</td>
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<td>Crumb grain (score)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>1.8*</td>
<td>2.0*</td>
<td>3.9*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significance of the difference between Thunder CL and the check cultivar based on a Student’s paired t test procedure at the 0.05 probability level.

1SKCS, single kernel characterization system.

2ns, not significant.

3Mixograph tolerance and crumb grain score scales: 6 = outstanding, 0 = unacceptable.
(C.W. Brabender, South Hackensack, NJ) flour extraction were comparable to the checks and generally within the range of acceptability. Values for baking-related variables were generally superior for Thunder CL compared with Hatcher and especially Above and Danby (Table 1). In mixograph (National Manufacturing, Lincoln, NE) tests optimized for water absorption, Thunder CL had longer mixing time and greater curve width at peak than the three checks. The mixograph curve width 2 min after peak and subjective mixograph tolerance score were also greater for Thunder CL compared with Above and Danby, although similar to Hatcher. In straight-dough pup loaf baking tests, Thunder CL had similar bake water absorption and longer bake mix time and greater loaf volume and crumb grain score compared to the three checks.

Grain polyphenol oxidase (PPO) concentration and yellow alkaline noodle color stability of Thunder CL, Trego, and ‘TAM 107’ (PI 495594; Porter et al., 1987) were estimated from four intraregional production zone composites from the 2007 SRPN. Values for the change in noodle L* value (brightness) value between 0 and 24 h were similar ($P > 0.05$) for Thunder CL (−14.9), Trego (−14.7), and TAM 107 (−14.4). Spectrophotometer absorbance (475 nm) values for grain PPO concentration of Thunder CL (0.82) were higher than both Trego (0.73, $P = 0.07$) and TAM 107 (0.67, $P < 0.05$).

**Availability**

Thunder CL contains a patented herbicide tolerance trait owned by BASF Corporation (Florham Park, NJ) that confers tolerance to imidazolinone herbicides, such as imazamox. Any use of Thunder CL requires a Material Transfer Agreement (for research use only) or a Commercial License to the trait, as well as permission from the originator. Contact the corresponding author for all seed requests. The corresponding author will forward the request for seed to BASF Corporation. No seed will be distributed for 20 yr from the date of release without written permission from both BASF and Colorado State University.

The Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station will maintain Breeder seed of Thunder CL. Multiplication and distribution rights of other classes of certified seed have been transferred from the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station to the Colorado Wheat Research Foundation, 7100 S. Clinton St. Suite 120, Centennial, CO 80112. Thunder CL has been submitted for U.S. Plant Variety Protection (PVP) under Public Law 91-577 with the Certification Only option. Recognized seed classes will include the Foundation, Registered, and Certified seed classes.

**Acknowledgments**

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**References**


