

Crafty Housewife Yarns Wool Quick Reference

Breed	Staple Length	Micron	Bradford	Notes
Merino	62-100mm	17-23	64-80s	Finest of the wool breeds. Excellent for next-to the skin wear and baby wear.
Cormo		17-23		The breed is the result of crossing Corriedales and Superfine Merinos.
Corriedale	80-120mm	25-30		Produced by crossing merino sheep with Lincoln and Leicester to produce a sheep with sound, long staple in the crossbreed range
Rambouillet	50-100mm	18-25	60-80	French descendant of the merino, seems harder to break the grease when cleaning. Can be used for felting.
California Varigated Mutant	100-150mm	22-25	60-62	Bred from mutations in the Romeldale breed, which were bred from Romneys and Rambouillets
Bluefaced Leicester	80-150mm	24-28	56-60s	Bred from the Leicester, but has finer fleece. Good multi-purpose fiber.
Shetland	50-120mm	20-25	55-65	Largest range of colors and markings of any breed, extremely good for shawls and lace. Felts easily. It is a very primitive breed and is 2 coated. It has a natural break in the fleece and the sheep normally shed their fleece in the summer. This allows the fleece to be rooed or plucked instead of sheared.

Targhee	75-125mm	21-25	58-64	A breed developed in the USA in the 20th century, primarily from crossing rambouillet, corriedale, and lincoln.
Polwarth		22-25		The breed is the result of breeding Merinos and Lincolns.
Tunis	100-150mm	24-30	56-58	

Cheviot	75-125mm	27-33	50-56	Very resilient with a helical crimp. Particularly good for blending for the resilience and strength. Very springy. Although it has a lot of the characteristics of a down breed, it is a hill breed
Finn	75-150mm	24-31	50s-60s	Also called Finnish Landrace and Finnsheep. The fleece felts easily, and comes in colored and white.
Dorset	60-100mm	27-33	46-58	Better known as a meat breed, down breed. Similar to Suffolk.
Jacob	75-175mm	26-37	44-56	A primitive breed with both white and colored wool on the same fleece, named for the spotted sheep of Jacob in the Bible. Varies greatly in fineness and quality.
Border Leicester	125-250mm	30-38	36-48	
Coopworth	125-200mm	30-39		
Romney	145mm	31-38	40-48	A very versatile fleece with even crimp and good luster for all purposes. Finest of the longwool breeds. Strong fiber and spins easily.
Lincoln	300-380mm	33-41	36	Coarse, but has good luster

Cotswold	200-300mm	32-40	Long, shiny ringlets
Leicester	175mm	38-40	Coarse wool usually spun into a medium-thick yarn for outdoor garments, wall-hangings, furnishing fabrics, and rugs.

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The following explanation is from the Paradise Fibers Blog They explained it wonderfully so I'm just passing along the info.

- Micron (μ): One micron is one millionth (0.000001) of a meter this is the scientific objective system of measurement for the diameter of a fiber. It is the mean of the fibers, so they can be a range of fiber thickness within a designated number.
- Bradford count: it is a subjective system based on the theoretical premise the finer the wool the more fibers per pound, which allows for more yarn to be spun from a single pound. As a system Bradford does not take into account how crimp affects drafting or spinning. Bradford count is based on the number of 560-yard (512-m) hanks theoretically spun from 1 pound (.54kg) of clean wool roving. The number has a "s" after it.

CHY "Simplified Understanding"

Micron- Generally the smaller the number for the micron the "softer" the wool is because it is "finer" This still leaves a lot to be determined on luster, enjoyableness of spinning what you're making etc. Softer = not necessarily the best but good to know.

Bradford Count - The larger the number the more imaginary hanks or skeins of yarn you could spin per pound of clean fiber. So the larger the number the finer the fiber.

I personally like experimenting with many different types of wool. While it is nice to have these "counts" as a reference please don't let it keep you from trying some more of our usual heritage breeds.