



WINTER WHEAT INFORMATION LETTER

September 2006

Reasons to Grow Wheat Total Returns are Not Always Obvious

...article taken from C&M Seeds' Supplement to Ontario Farmer

Wheat has easily proven itself as a profitable crop in regular crop rotations throughout Ontario for the past several years but it's also very important to not forget the other benefits it brings to your cropping rotation. Over the past 20 years, research trials have been conducted throughout Ontario looking at the effect wheat has on corn and soybean yields. Every single study produced the same results, having wheat in your rotation significantly increased both corn and

soybean yields.

"The benefit of including wheat in your crop rotation is endless," says Peter Johnson, wheat specialist with OMAFRA. Growers do not often relate this yield response to wheat but it has been proven time and time again," explains Johnson.

"Including wheat in your rotation will increase both your corn and soybean yields by up to 10%."

– Peter Johnson

WHEAT BRINGS MANY OTHER ADDED BENEFITS THAN JUST YIELD ALONE TO YOUR ROTATION, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- ☛ Spreading Weather Risk** – in dry springs, wheat capitalizes on residual soil moisture and is often not as affected by drought conditions in the summer.
- ☛ Spreading the Workload** – planting and harvest is during the off-season.
- ☛ Improved Soil Structure** – during wet springs, the root system of an established winter wheat crop provides soil structure and prevents the soil from mudding and crusting.
- ☛ Cash Flow** – provides cash flow earlier in the season than other traditional crops.
- ☛ Manure Management** – applying manure after harvesting a wheat crop can provide most of the N, P and K for the following year's corn.
- ☛ Weed Control** – provides stiff competition for weeds with a variety of chemical options, preharvest, postharvest and in the crop.
- ☛ Ideal Harvest Conditions** – harvest occurs well before the wet fall weather reducing drying costs and less risk associated with compaction and rutting problems.

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REVIEW OF 2005-2006 WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat yield results for many First Nation Farmers were very disappointing. Low yields in most cases can be traced to the 2005 fall season. Wet weather arrived in mid September 2005. Seeding on summer fallowed acres was later than normal. Seeding after soybean harvest occurred until November 1 and after in a few cases. Wheat lost its snow cover in early spring leaving the crop exposed to heaving. As a result, late seeded poorly rooted wheat had thin



stands that did not yield. Planting date must be your number one priority.

Solution: Plant as early as possible. You may start planting anytime after September 10. If October field conditions are not satisfactory and weather is cold, narrow the planting window by one week. Do not plant after October 24.

VARIETY SELECTION

The 2006 Ontario Winter Wheat Performance Trials are now available. The combined results for Areas I and II are enclosed. Please review and compare to the results on your farm. Due to greater susceptibility to sprouting and fusarium, soft white winter wheat varieties should be avoided. The highest yield potential exists with the soft red winter wheat varieties. *(Dealer Variety Information Enclosed)*

BEST PERFORMERS IN 2006

Soft Red:

- | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| 1. Emmit | - | Hyland |
| 2. 25R47 | - | Pioneer |
| 3. 25R23 | - | Pioneer |
| 4. Vienna | - | C&M Seeds |

Hard Red:

- | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------|
| 1. AC Morley | - | Hyland |
| 2. Maxine | - | C&M Seeds |
| 3. Harvard | - | C&M Seeds |

Choose your varieties wisely!

STRAW PRODUCTION IN 2006 (presented by Peter Johnson-Aug.29th)

Emmit	1.6 Tonnes/acre
Vienna	1.3 “
FT Wonder	1.1 “

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SHOULD YOU GROW HARD RED WINTER WHEAT?

If yields of the top four soft red winter wheat varieties are compared to the yields of the top four hard red winter varieties, the hard reds yield 4 bushels less per acre. A premium is needed to make up for less yield and the cost of the extra nitrogen required to boost protein levels.

If you plan to grow hard red winter wheat, some local elevators are offering very good programs. Many of these programs carry significant premiums but you must ensure that a delivery location is close to your farm. Seeding a portion of your wheat acreage to a hard red variety is good since hard reds mature later and maintain quality in adverse conditions.



FERTILITY

Wheat responds to fall fertilization. Wheat needs phosphorus. Application of 80 pounds of MAP (15-52-0) through the drill is best. Response can also be obtained by broadcasting 100 pounds per acre if drill application is not an option. A few pounds of all fertilization pays.

SEED TREATMENT



All bin-run wheat seed must be treated. The treatment choice is Dividend XL-RTA. Dividend is a water-

based formulation that can be easily applied directly to the seed during the filling operation. Dividend protects wheat against most seed and soil-borne diseases. (Information enclosed).

SEEDING RATE

Optimum seeding rate should produce a target population of 1.5 – 1.8 million plants per acre. When converted to



pounds per acre, seeding rates can vary from 132 lbs/acre to 180 lbs/acre. Higher seeding rates should be used where emergence and seedling establishment is likely to be poor and for late planting where tillering will be reduced.

PLANTING DATES



Seeding during the last half of September is preferred. Seeding should not occur past November 1st. Usually significant yield potential is lost if wheat is seeded after October 15th. Much depends on fall weather conditions. The seeded crop must have emerged before winter.