



WINTER WHEAT INFORMATION LETTER

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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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Planting Intentions 2007

Few IAPO clients were able to plant winter wheat in 2006. Soybean harvest was delayed by excessive rainfall throughout all of September and most of October. This scenario played out across all of Ontario as total acreage planted fell below 500,000 acres.

As we enter September 2007, fields are dry and farmers are looking at an early soybean harvest. In addition, many producers have last year's wheat seed stored on the farm. Under these conditions acreage seeded to winter wheat could be 1.25-1.5 million acres. This would eclipse the 2005 record acreage.



Price Outlook

Winter wheat prices are at record levels. Futures prices are trading in the range of \$6.00 per bushel. Forward contract prices for 2008 crop in Southern Ontario are as follows (August 30, 2007)

	Soft Red	Hard Red
London Area	\$5.24	\$5.60
Brantford	\$5.40	\$5.75

If Ontario and U.S. farmers respond to these record prices by planting huge acres of winter wheat, this market will lose its strength quickly. Ontario grain dealers will drop their basis bids even further into negative territory. Two points to take away from this newsletter.

- ◆ Winter wheat prices are at record levels, not witnessed before
- ◆ Conditions are indicating that acreage could also be a record

Conclusion: Contract 50% of your projected 2008 production now or in the very near future. Current prices are in the profit zone.

OPTIMIZE YOUR PLANTING!

FERTILITY

Wheat responds to fall fertilization. Wheat needs phosphorus. Application of 60 to 80 pounds of MAP (11-52-0) 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 fall 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

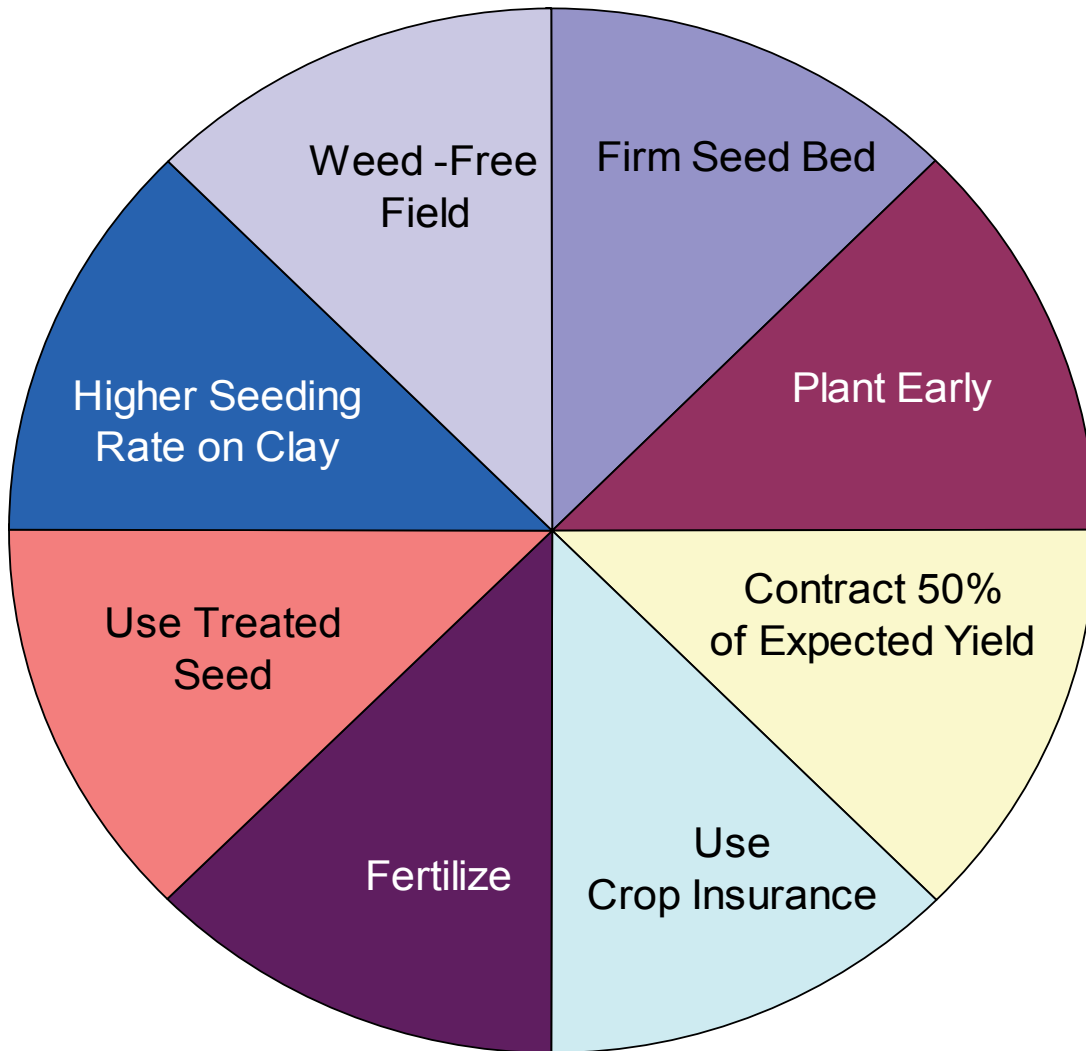
Optimum seeding rate should produce a target population of 1.5 – 1.8 million plants per acre. When converted to pounds per acre, seeding rates can vary from 132 lbs/acre to 180 lbs/acre. Higher seeding rates should be used where emergence and seedling establishment is likely to be poor and for late planting 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.

<u>AGRICORP REPORTING</u>	
	Winter Wheat 2007
Planting Date Deadlines	October 31
Final Acreage Reports	November 1

Wheel To Success



VARIETY SELECTION

The 2007 Ontario Winter Wheat Performance Trial results are now available. The combined results for Areas I and II are on page 4 of this newsletter. To view the results in all areas of Ontario, visit www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/wwperf-07.pdf.

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. Please note that hard red winter wheat varieties yield less than soft red varieties.

BEST PERFORMERS IN 2007 TRIALS

(complete summary on following page)

<u>Soft Red</u>		<u>Index</u>
Pioneer	25R47	112 %
Hyland	Emmit	110 %
Pioneer	25R56	113 %
<u>Hard Red</u>		
Hyland	AC Morley	98 %
C&M Seeds	Harvard	96 %
	Wentworth	97 %

Table 1 - Ontario Performance Trial; Winter Wheat 2007; Cumulative Yield Index¹ Summary for Area I & II Combined², OCCC, August, 2007.

Variety	Class ³	5 year	4 year	3 year	2 year	2007
Superior	sww	101 ⁴	100	100	100	103
AC Mackinnon	sww	103	102	103	105	103
AC Mountain	sww	100	99	100	101	101
Ashley	sww-a	101	100	99	100	97
25W41	sww-a		99	99	100	106
D8006W	sww-a		102	102	103	107
Ava	sww				104	106
E1009W	sww				106	105
FT Action	sww					90
Wisdom	srw	101	100	101	101	101
Warwick	srw	100	99	98	99	98
Vienna	srw	103	102	99	94	97
FT Wonder	srw	99	99	98	96	95
25R47	srw-a	111	109	109	107	112
Tribute	srw		103	103	102	101
Emmit	srw		110	110	110	110
E1007R	srw-a			105	106	104
R045	srw-a			101	102	106
Huntley	srw-a			102	100	100
Becher	srw				103	103
ADV Dyno	srw				102	106
R055	srw				104	103
25R56	srw				109	113
25R51	srw					103
AC Morley	hrw	98	97	95	97	98
Maxine	hrw-a	94	92	91	89	85
Warthog	hrw	97	97	96	99	96
Harvard	hrw	99	98	96	96	96
Carlisle	hrw-a	98	97	97	95	94
AC Sampson	hrw	96	96	94	93	91
Wentworth	hrw				100	97
FTHP Redeemer	hrw				88	88
Means		6.31	6.26	6.14	6.16	5.73
No. of locations		31	25	18	11	5

¹ Indexed for each site and then averaged. Index = 100 x (variety yield/site yield). Values differing by less than 3 within a column may not represent true differences in yield.

² AREA I & II Combined = all heat unit zones West of Frontenac County.

³ sww = soft white winter, srw = soft red winter, hrw = hard red winter, a= awned.

⁴ Cultivar yield rankings may vary from year to year. Decisions are therefore best made using data with the greatest number of years.