

Winter Wheat and Rye Seedings



USDA
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Winter Wheat Seedings Down 7 Percent

Winter wheat seeded area for 1997 is expected to total 48.2 million acres, down 7 percent from 1996. This will be the lowest planted acreage since 1978. Class breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 34.1 million acres; Soft Red Winter, 9.97 million; and White Winter, 4.19 million.

Rye area for 1997, at 1.50 million acres, is up 2 percent from 1996. Increased plantings in Illinois and North Carolina more than offset the States that have lower seeded area. North Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin also expect larger rye acreages this year.

Winter Wheat and Rye: Area Seeded, United States, 1995-97
(Domestic Units)

| | Area Seeded | | | Area Seeded as % of | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|------|------|
| | Crop of | | | Previous Year | | |
| | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 |
| | ----- 1,000 Acres ----- | | | ----- Percent ----- | | |
| Winter Wheat | 48,686 | 51,983 | 48,222 | 99 | 107 | 93 |
| Rye | 1,602 | 1,467 | 1,498 | 99 | 92 | 102 |
| | (Metric Units) | | | | | |
| | ----- Hectares ----- | | | ----- Percent ----- | | |
| Winter Wheat | 19,702,740 | 21,037,000 | 19,514,960 | 99 | 107 | 93 |
| Rye | 648,310 | 593,680 | 606,230 | 99 | 92 | 102 |

Winter Wheat: Growers have seeded, or intend to seed, 48.2 million acres of winter wheat for 1997 harvest. The estimated level is down 7 percent from last year, and, if realized, will be the smallest winter seeded area since 1978. Planting got underway last August in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) and several Mountain States. Progress moved forward at widely varying paces throughout the fall. Late row crop harvest and wetness presented problems in the Plains and major Soft Red States. Plantings should finish sometime next month in California. About 99 percent of the U.S. acreage was seeded by December 1.

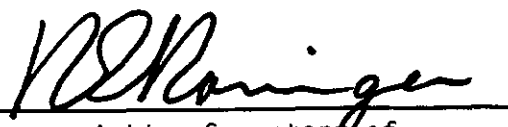
Hard Red Winter wheat seeded area is estimated at 34.1 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. Increased area in Colorado was more than offset by acreage decreases in the Great plains from Oklahoma to the Canadian border, and in Montana. Drought-like conditions prevailed over much of Montana this fall. Many farmers held off planting; when rains finally came, it was too late to seed. Wetness hampered Kansas seeding during September; rains continued to delay or prohibit planting in the eastern third through November. Adequate rainfall in the Panhandle and southwestern areas of Nebraska encouraged producers to seed wheat; late row crop harvests curtailed plantings elsewhere. The South Dakota drop is a return to more normal winter wheat planted area. New Mexico's dryland crop got off to a good start but needed moisture by the end of November. Late October rains halted California's seeding progress and above normal moisture has kept fields in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys wet ever since. Colorado's increase comes despite wet seeding conditions that caused washout in many areas. Mild weather has given re-seeded ground time to establish. Favorable soil moisture allowed normal emergence of Wyoming's crop. Some wind damage has occurred due to lack of snow cover. The Texas crop is off to a significantly better start than last year; moisture conditions are good nearly statewide.

Soft Red Winter seedings are down sharply to just less than ten million acres, off 15 percent from last year. Unlike last year, rainy weather has persisted through the fall preventing planting on thousands of acres directly, or, slowing row crop harvest to the point that many acres did not get in from the Delta up through northwest Ohio. Arkansas, Missouri and Illinois are down a total of 1.45 million acres; Ohio and Indiana are down a collective 300,000 acres. Conversely, favorable seeding weather allowed the Carolinas to finish ahead of average. Despite the delays, Kentucky expects no change in wheat area.

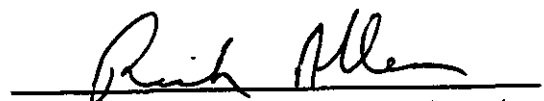
White Winter wheat totals 4.2 million acres, down 5 percent from 1996. Planting progressed ahead of average in Washington until rains from late October through November slowed progress. Price declines have caused some farmers there to delay crop decisions until this spring. Flooding in parts of the PNW has caused an undetermined amount of damage since seeding. Late crop harvests prevented some Michigan and New York plantings.

Durum Wheat: Seedings in Arizona and California for 1997 harvest are projected at 220,000 acres. If realized, this total would be down 28 percent from the final 1996 plantings. Seeding progress trailed average in Arizona; only 20 percent of the acreage was seeded at mid-December. California's Durum seeding has been hampered by rain in the San Joaquin Valley.

This report was approved on January 10, 1997, by the Secretary of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Statistics Service's Agricultural Statistics Board.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Richard E. Rominger



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Rich Allen

Winter Wheat: Area Seeded, by State and United States, 1995-97

| State | Area Seeded | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------|---------|-----------|
| | Crop of | | | 1997/1996 |
| | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | |
| ----- 1,000 Acres ----- | | | Percent | |
| AL | 120 | 110 | 130 | 118 |
| AZ | 25 | 15 | 10 | 67 |
| AR | 1,100 | 1,300 | 850 | 65 |
| CA | 580 | 640 | 600 | 94 |
| CO | 2,900 | 3,000 | 3,100 | 103 |
| DE | 70 | 80 | 85 | 106 |
| FL | 20 | 13 | 17 | 131 |
| GA | 350 | 400 | 400 | 100 |
| ID | 830 | 900 | 920 | 102 |
| IL | 1,480 | 1,650 | 1,150 | 70 |
| IN | 700 | 850 | 700 | 82 |
| IA | 50 | 60 | 35 | 58 |
| KS | 11,700 | 11,800 | 11,400 | 97 |
| KY | 650 | 700 | 700 | 100 |
| LA | 100 | 140 | 120 | 86 |
| MD | 230 | 235 | 200 | 85 |
| MI | 630 | 700 | 580 | 83 |
| MN | 35 | 35 | 55 | 157 |
| MS | 180 | 245 | 260 | 106 |
| MO | 1,350 | 1,600 | 1,100 | 69 |
| MT | 1,500 | 2,150 | 1,650 | 77 |
| NE | 2,150 | 2,300 | 2,000 | 87 |
| NV | 5 | 10 | 10 | 100 |
| NJ | 36 | 46 | 30 | 65 |
| NM | 460 | 470 | 430 | 91 |
| NY | 130 | 160 | 140 | 88 |
| NC | 720 | 630 | 750 | 119 |
| ND | 40 | 80 | 40 | 50 |
| OH | 1,230 | 1,400 | 1,250 | 89 |
| OK | 6,900 | 7,000 | 6,800 | 97 |
| OR | 860 | 880 | 890 | 101 |
| PA | 190 | 195 | 180 | 92 |
| SC | 300 | 280 | 300 | 107 |
| SD | 1,600 | 2,000 | 1,650 | 83 |
| TN | 600 | 620 | 560 | 90 |
| TX | 5,800 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 100 |
| UT | 145 | 175 | 170 | 97 |
| VA | 300 | 300 | 280 | 93 |
| WA | 2,250 | 2,400 | 2,250 | 94 |
| WV | 15 | 14 | 15 | 107 |
| WI | 145 | 145 | 145 | 100 |
| WY | 210 | 255 | 270 | 106 |
| US | 48,686 | 51,983 | 48,222 | 93 |

Rye: Area Seeded, by State and United States, 1995-97

| State | Area Seeded | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| | Crop of | | | 1997/1996 |
| | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | |
| ----- 1,000 Acres ----- | | | | Percent |
| CO | 15 | 28 | 28 | 100 |
| GA | 300 | 300 | 300 | 100 |
| IL | 55 | 50 | 65 | 130 |
| IN | 20 | 20 | 20 | 100 |
| KS | 100 | 60 | 50 | 83 |
| MD | 30 | 25 | 25 | 100 |
| MI | 90 | 80 | 80 | 100 |
| MN | 30 | 25 | 25 | 100 |
| NE | 60 | 50 | 50 | 100 |
| NJ | 40 | 25 | 20 | 80 |
| NY | 42 | 49 | 35 | 71 |
| NC | 100 | 90 | 120 | 133 |
| ND | 25 | 20 | 30 | 150 |
| OH | 45 | 35 | 30 | 86 |
| OK | 180 | 200 | 200 | 100 |
| PA | 50 | 60 | 50 | 83 |
| SC | 50 | 40 | 40 | 100 |
| SD | 55 | 40 | 40 | 100 |
| TX | 150 | 120 | 130 | 108 |
| VA | 90 | 80 | 80 | 100 |
| WI | 75 | 70 | 80 | 114 |
| US | 1,602 | 1,467 | 1,498 | 102 |

Durum Wheat: Area Seeded, by State and United States, 1995-97

| State | Area Seeded | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------|---------|-----------|
| | Crop of | | | 1997/1996 |
| | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 1/ | |
| ----- 1,000 Acres ----- | | | | Percent |
| AZ | 100 | 165 | 105 | 64 |
| CA | 70 | 140 | 115 | 82 |
| MN | 13 | 10 | | |
| MT | 270 | 280 | | |
| ND | 2,950 | 3,000 | | |
| SD | 33 | 25 | | |
| US | 3,436 | 3,620 | | |

1/ Indicated 1997 area seeded for all six states will be published in "Prospective Plantings" released March 31, 1997.

The next "Winter Wheat and Rye Seedings" report will be released in January 1998.

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