



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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Washington's 2012 All Wheat Planted Acres Down 5 Percent

OLYMPIA, Wash., March 30, 2012 - According to a survey conducted in the first two weeks of March 2012, Washington wheat growers expect to plant 2.27 million acres of all wheat for harvest this year. This is 5 percent below last year and the lowest since 2007, according to David Knopf, Director of the Washington Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Above average rainfall during much of March 2012 in most of the State, has helped topsoil moisture, but more precipitation is needed in some areas. Spring wheat planting has begun. Acreage of winter wheat planted for harvest in 2012 is expected to reach 1.70 million acres, 60,000 acres less than in 2011. The winter wheat crop has survived the winter in good condition. Spring Wheat planted acres are estimated at 570,000, 50,000 acres less than in 2011.

Winter and spring barley acres planted in the Nation for harvest in 2012 is estimated at 3.33 million acres, up 30 percent from last year.

Winter wheat acres in the Nation planted for harvest in 2012 are estimated at 41.7 million acres, up 3 percent from 2011, but down 1 percent from the *Winter Wheat Seedings* report. Of the total acreage, about 29.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.4 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.5 million acres are White Winter. In the U.S. growers intend to plant 12.0 million acres of **Spring Wheat** this year, down 3 percent from 2011. Of the total, about 94 percent is Hard Red Spring.

Field Corn acres are expected to reach 195,000 planted acres in Washington, unchanged from the 2011 crop. In the U.S., growers intend to plant 95.9 million acres for all purposes, up 4 percent from last year. Expected acreage is up again this year in many States due to higher prices and better net returns.

Dry bean (including Garbanzos/Chickpeas) acreage in Washington is expected to reach 110,000 acres, 33,000 acres above 2011. Large chick peas are estimated at 60,000 acres compared with 48,000 acres in 2011, and small chickpeas are a reported 18,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from 2011. Intended dry bean planted acreage in Idaho is 130,000 acres, and in Oregon growers are planning on seeding 6,000 acres.

Area planted to **lentils** in Washington is expected to total 75,000 acres, up 25 percent from 2011 while **dry pea** growers intend to plant 19,000 more acres than they did last year.

Acres of **hay** for harvest in Washington are expected to total 840,000 acres, up 60,000 acres from 2011. Oregon's expected hay acreage, at 1.10 million acres is up 7 percent from last year while Idaho acreage is down 1 percent. Nationally, producers expect to harvest 57.3 million acres, up 3 percent from 2011.

Planted **oat** acreage in Washington is expected to total 15,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from 2011. A total of 2.86 million acres of oats is expected to be seeded by U. S. growers for the 2012 crop year. This would be up 15 percent from last year's planted acres.

Surveys and Estimates: These estimates are the results of the **March 2012 Agricultural Survey** conducted during the first two weeks of March 2012. These prospective planting estimates can and do change based on conditions at planting time. If growers in many areas receive moisture, producers may decide to plant more spring crops. These estimates will be updated with the June Acreage Survey results which will be released on June 29, 2012. The first estimate of winter wheat production will be published on May 10, 2012, and the first estimate of spring wheat and barley production and wheat varieties will be published on July 11, 2012.

Prospective Plantings: Selected States & United States, 2010-2012

Crop	Washington			Oregon		Idaho		United States		
	2010	2011	2012 2/	2011	2012 2/	2011	2012 2/	2010	2011	2012 2/
	1,000 Acres									
All Wheat 1/	2,330	2,380	2,270	990	900	1,471	1,335	53,593	54,409	55,908
Winter	1,750	1,760	1,700	830	790	820	780	37,335	40,646	41,709
Spring	580	620	570	160	110	640	540	13,698	12,394	11,976
Barley 1/	90	125	140	38	40	520	590	2,872	2,559	3,333
Oats 1/	20	10	15	35	50	70	80	3,138	2,496	2,863
Corn	200	195	195	83	80	350	350	88,192	91,921	95,864
Dry Beans 3/	86.0	77.0	110.0	6.4	6.0	95.0	130.0	1,911.4	1,205.9	1,669.9
Chickpeas (lg)	51.0	48.0	60.0	0.7	2.0	33.5	35.0	120.9	96.0	121.0
Chickpeas (sm)	3.7	8.0	18.0	(NA)	(NA)	17.5	30.0	25.1	36.9	63.0
Lentils	78.0	60.0	75.0	(NA)	(NA)	28.0	33.0	658.0	428.0	518.0
Dry Peas	68.0	66.0	85.0	5.0	5.0	16.0	24.0	756.0	362.0	619.0
All Hay	840	780	840	1,030	1,100	1,350	1,330	59,872	55,633	57,348

(NA) Not available.

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall. Excludes durum.

2/ Intended plantings for 2012 as indicated by reports from farmers.

3/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.



To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables point to http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/Current_News_Release/prosplnt.doc

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