



PRESS RELEASE

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Washington's 2007 Winter Wheat Production Lowest since 2002

Washington's 2007 winter wheat production was a reported 108.2 million bushels, the lowest since 2002 when 104.4 million bushels were produced. This was 9 percent below the 2006 crop. A price incentive for red wheat resulted in white wheat accounting for 75 percent of the total compared with 90 percent for the 2006 crop. Based on final survey data, Washington's winter wheat growers planted an estimated 1.72 million acres last fall for harvest in 2007. This is the lowest acreage since 1962 when 1.70 million acres were seeded. With combining complete for the year, 1.69 million acres were cut compared with 1.80 million acres for the 2006 crop. Yields averaged 64.0 bushels per acre, the lowest since 2002 when 58.0 bushels per acre were produced.

Washington's spring wheat production, at 20.6 million bushels, was 3 percent below last year. A dry, hot spring contributed to a decline in yields from 50.0 bushels per acre in 2006 to 46.0 bushels per acre this year. An estimated 447,000 acres were harvested from an originally seeded 450,000 acres. White wheat varieties amounted to 50 percent of the total, 10 percentage points more than the 2006 crop.

Barley growers produced 13.5 million bushels in 2007, 13 percent more than in 2006. A jump in harvested acres to 225,000 acres more than offset a 3.0 bushel per acre reduction in average yields from the 2006 crop. Yields averaged 60.0 bushels per acre in 2007 compared with 63.0 bushels per acre in 2006.

An estimated 30,000 acres of **oats** were planted in 2007 with 9,000 acres harvested for grain. Production was 549,000 bushels from an average yield of 61.0 bushels per acre compared with 86.0 bushels per acre in 2006.

The 2007 **winter wheat** production in the United States is estimated at 1.52 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the final forecast but up 17 percent from last year. The U. S. yield is 42.2 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushel from August and up 0.5 bushel from last year's final yield. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 36.0 million acres, down 3 percent from the last forecast but up 16

percent from the previous year. Hard Red Winter harvested acreage is up about 21 percent from the previous year while Soft Red Winter harvested acreage is up about 15 percent.

Production of **other spring wheat** for 2007 in the United States is estimated at 479 million bushels, down 4 percent from the August forecast but up 4 percent from last year. Harvested area is 12.9 million acres, up 2 percent from August but down 7 percent from 2006. The U. S. yield is 37.0 bushels per acre, 2.3 bushels below the last forecast but up 3.8 bushels from last year.

Most winter wheat fields in Washington made it through the 2006-2007 winter in good condition. As fields thawed in early March 2007, high moisture levels in dryland areas had growers optimistic. By mid-March 2007, frost was mostly out of the ground State-wide and a small amount of field work was underway. During April 2007 growers were hoping for warmer temperatures. The weather was seasonal with precipitation near normal. However, by May, producers were hoping for rain. By month's end, soil moisture began to deteriorate as the localized showers did little to improve the soil profile. June arrived with a spike in temperatures and contributed to the stress on winter wheat. Cutting began in early July in the southeast corner of the State. Throughout July the weather was generally ideal with a few interruptions because of showers. Harvest was virtually complete by the end of August.

The **total wheat production** for the **Pacific Northwest** for 2007 was set at 259.2 million bushels, 6 percent below last year. Winter wheat production reached 200.4 million bushels, 6 percent below 2006 and spring wheat production was a reported 57.5 million bushels compared with 61.3 million bushels last year. The **Pacific Northwest's** barley production totaled 60.0 million bushels, up 4.8 percent from the 2006 crop. The **U.S.** production for the 2007 barley crop was 211.8 million bushels, up 18 percent from 2006.

Wheat: Production by Class, United States, 2005-2007 1/

Year	Winter					Spring					Total
	Hard Red	Soft Red	Hard White	Soft White	All White	Hard Red	Hard White	Soft White	All White	Durum	
	1,000 Bushels										
2005	929,820	309,021	25,279	235,009	260,288	466,587	4,530	33,339	37,869	101,105	2,104,690
2006	682,079	390,165	13,284	212,553	225,837	432,339	6,226	21,915	28,141	53,475	1,812,036
2007	961,588	357,897	21,460	175,044	196,504	448,904	5,589	24,554	30,143	71,686	2,066,722

1/ Wheat class estimates are based on the latest available data including both survey and administrative data.



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