

CROP REPORT



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PRESS RELEASE

1220 SW 3rd Ave., Room 1735
Portland, OR 97204
503-326-2131 or 1-800-338-2157
FAX: 326-2549 or 1-800-731-7011

Oregon winter wheat seeding for 2004 down

Oregon wheat producers seeded an estimated 900,000 acres of winter wheat last fall for harvest in 2004, according to the Oregon Agricultural Statistics Service. This level is down 7 percent or 70,000 acres from 2003.

Dry conditions across the Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Idaho, and Washington) hampered emergence and in many cases resulted in less than ideal stands. Acreage is down in all 3 States largely due to the lack of soil moisture. Some early planted fields in Washington were reseeded due to crusting. Idaho growers decreased their wheat acreage by 5 percent to 720,000 acres. Washington growers planted 1.75 million acres also down 5 percent from 2003.

Nationally, the winter wheat planted area for harvest in 2004 is estimated at 43.5 million acres, down 3 percent from 2003. Seeding began last August and advanced ahead of the five-year average pace throughout the fall. (Nearly all of the U.S. acreage was seeded by December 1. The largest remaining intended areas are in the Southeast and California.) Seeding should finish sometime next month in California.

Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat seeded area is about 31.0 million acres, down 4 percent from 2003. Acreage declines were reported in the southern Great Plains States, where moisture supplies remain low. The Texas High Plains only received 54 percent of normal rainfall during August, September, and October. As of November 30 in Kansas, 65 percent of the topsoil moisture was rated short to very short, and 69 percent of the subsoil moisture fell into that category. Germination rates in Colorado were below normal as the crop headed into dormancy. Nebraska planted acreage is unchanged from 2003, where crop condition ratings at the end of November were only slightly better than a year earlier. Growers in the Dakotas and Montana seeded more winter wheat than a year ago even though moisture was also short there. Emergence problems and lack of snow cover left growers concerned about the winter hardiness of the crop.

Soft Red Winter (SRW) area, at about 8.3 million acres, is up slightly from last year. Several factors contributed to significant acreage increases in Missouri and Illinois, including record high yields last year, good prices, and some disappointment with alternative crop yields. North Carolina growers also planted substantially more wheat this fall, rebounding from last year's well below normal level. Most remaining SRW States planted fewer acres than last year, most notably Ohio.

Winter wheat: Area seeded by crop year, 2002 - 2004 ¹

State	2002 <i>1,000 acres</i>	2003 <i>1,000 acres</i>	2004 <i>1,000 acres</i>
Oregon	800	970	900
Idaho	730	760	720
Washington	1,800	1,850	1,750
Pacific Northwest ²	3,330	3,580	3,370
United States	41,845	44,945	43,464

¹ Total for all purposes

² Includes Oregon, Idaho and Washington

For more details, please call Janice Goodwin or Patrick Boyle at (503) 326 2131 or see our home page:
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