

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507

## PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 2004

**Olympia** - "Washington farmers' 2004 planting intentions are generally lower than last year, according to Ray Garibay, Director of the Washington Agricultural Statistics Service (WASS). Planted acreage for all major crops are below last year. Only field corn and dry bean acreage is above 2003. Precipitation was heavy along the coastal areas, but light in the crop-producing areas farther inland. Temperatures were mild through most of the winter, except in early January, when temperatures fell to well below normal. Snow cover in the region was mostly adequate for protecting winter wheat."

**Spring wheat** seedings for Washington are expected to be 480,000 acres, 70,000 acres less than last year. This is the lowest level since 1998's 470,000 acres. Oregon producers expect to plant 5,000 acres more than last year and Idaho acreage is down 30,000 acres, the lowest acreage since 1988. Nationwide, acreage fell from 13.8 million acres to 13.3 million in 2004. The largest declines are expected in Minnesota and North Dakota where growers continue to shift wheat acreage to corn and soybeans.

**Winter and spring barley** acreage is estimated at 290,000 acres in Washington, 30,000 acres below 2003. This is the lowest level since 1974's 283,000 acres. Oregon acreage was down 8,000 acres and Idaho acreage was down 50,000 acres from 2003. Nationwide, acreage is down to 4.7 million acres, from 5.3 million acres last year.

**Sugarbeet** acreage for Washington fell 200 acres, to 4,200 acres. Total U.S. acreage is expected to total 1.36 million acres, down slightly from last year.

**Dry bean** acres in Washington are expected to increase 7,500 acres in 2004, reaching 35,000 acres. Oregon acreage

is an estimated 5,000 acres, down 2,000 acres and Idaho acreage is up to 80,000 acres from 75,000 acres planted in 2003. Acres in the U. S. fell over 73,000 acres to 1.33 million.

**Field corn** acreage in Washington is up 20,000 acres to 150,000 acres and the highest level since 2000's 155,000 planted acres. Oregon acreage rose from 51,000 acres last year to 57,000 acres this year while Idaho acreage is down 10,000 acres. U. S. growers intent to plant 79.0 million acres for all purposes in 2004, up slightly from both the 2003 and 2002 crops.

Planted acres of **oats** in Washington is down 5,000 acres from 2003, at 30,000 acres. Idaho acreage is up 5,000 acres, at 125,000 acres. Oregon growers expect to plant the same acres as last year, at 60,000 acres. U. S. growers seeded and will seed for the 2004 crop year a total of 4.31 million acres, down 6 percent from last year's planted area.

Acres of **hay** for harvest is up in the Pacific Northwest from 2003. Washington and Oregon acreage is down but not enough to offset Idaho's increase. Washington and Oregon acres are each down 10,000 acres while Idaho's is up 40,000 acres. Nationally, producers expect to harvest 63.7 million acres, up slightly from last year.

**Surveys and Estimates:** These estimates are the results of the March Prospective Planting Survey conducted during the first two week of March. These estimates will be updated after our June survey results are released on June 30, 2004. The first estimate of winter wheat production will be published May 12, 2004 and the first estimate of spring wheat and barley production will be published July 12, 2004.

### PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS: SELECTED STATES & UNITED STATES, 2002-2004

Crop	Washington			Oregon		Idaho		United States		
	2002	2003	Ind. 2004	2003	Ind. 2004	2003	Ind. 2004	2002	2003	Ind. 2004
	1,000 Acres									
All Wheat 1/	2,450	2,400	2,280	1,115	1,020	1,240	1,170	60,318	61,700	59,462
Winter 1/	1,850	1,850	1,800	970	870	760	720	41,766	44,945	43,372
Spring	600	550	480	145	150	480	450	15,639	13,840	13,333
Barley 1/	350	320	290	70	62	750	700	5,008	5,299	4,683
Oats	32	35	30	60	60	120	125	4,995	4,601	4,312
Corn	130	130	150	51	57	190	180	78,894	78,736	79,004
Dry Beans 2/	44.5	27.5	35.0	7.0	5.0	75.0	80.0	1,929.7	1,406.1	1,333.0
Sugarbeets 3/	4.0	4.4	4.2	9.7	11.0	208.0	197.0	1,427.3	1,365.4	1,358.6
All Hay 4/	820	810	800	1,115	1,105	1,500	1,540	63,942	63,342	63,731

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall. 2/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed. 3/ Relates to year of intended harvest except overwintered spring planted beans in California. 4/ Area harvested in 2002 & 2003 and intended for harvest in 2004.