

---

## Winter Wheat in Traditional Areas

Gary Stanford, Past Chairman of AWWPC

I plan well in advance of seeding winter wheat on my farm. I need spring crops seeded early and shorter seasoned ones like barley or peas. Seeding of winter wheat is best done before middle of September so you need your equipment ready to go.

I always treat my seed for bunt and put down some phosphate and nitrogen with the seed as you want good germination. You want to get the winter wheat to grow to the two or three leaf stage before winter sets in, as this will develop a good crown nodule for over wintering. Good growth also means a healthier plant in the spring for better weed competition, better yield and earlier harvest. If your crop does not look to good in the spring, give it time or talk to one of the ag fieldmen as winter wheat stools very well and will surprise you.

Winter wheat usually doesn't need wild oat chemical as it competes well with all weeds, so a small application of 2-4D or express pack usually takes care of the few weeds that do come. Lower input costs and higher yield help to keep this one of my highest net income crops.

The Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission has worked hard with the winter wheat plant breeders to develop more varieties of milling qualities of winter wheat and also to increase acres. With more acres of select milling qualities planted this helps open back up our markets in Indonesia and hopefully a higher price at our local elevator. Some of the non-milling varieties go to the local feed market as it makes excellent feed for chickens and hogs.

Winter wheat is a good start to learning how to direct seed, increase wheat yields, and keep your cost down.

---