

**WHEAT PERFORMANCE IN ILLINOIS TRIALS - 2017**  
**Crop Sciences Special Report 2017-01, July 2017**

**Emerson D. Nafziger, Darin K. Joos, and Keith Ames**  
**Department of Crop Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana**

The 2016-17 wheat season was a very good one in Illinois, with good yields and good quality. Planted acres for 2017 were 520,000, the same as in the previous year. Harvested area was 490,000 acres in 2017, up slightly from 470,000 acres in 2016. The July 1 yield estimate for Illinois wheat was 75 bushels per acre, one bushel above the yield in 2016 and a new record-high yield for Illinois.

Wheat planting in the fall of 2016 was delayed by late harvest of corn and soybeans and by wet weather; 50% of the crop was planted by October 20, compared to the 5-year average of October 16. The fall and winter were relatively warm, however, and the crop made more than normal growth during the fall and spent less time in dormancy than it normally does. There was an unusual pattern to the winter weather, with February much warmer than normal and average March temperatures close to normal overall but with some temperatures below 20 degrees in mid-March. Winter survival was very good, and even with the setback of low temperatures in mid-March, crop development in the spring was ahead of normal.

April was a little warmer than normal, and heading was much earlier than normal. Statewide, 50% of the wheat crop was headed by April 29, almost two weeks earlier than normal. Harvest also started early, with almost half of the crop harvested by June 15, some 10 days earlier than normal. Most of the Illinois crop experienced rainfall sometime during the flowering period, but the Fusarium head blight (scab) did not develop nearly as much as expected, and this disease had little effect on yield or grain quality in 2017. Stripe rust, which was serious in 2016, was not a problem in 2017. The only unusual thing we saw in the variety trials was some lodging in some varieties at some locations. We don't know the reason for this, but we rated it at locations where the amount of lodging appeared to affect yield of some varieties.

The 2016-17 wheat variety trials were planted on time – see the table below. Plots in these trials were seeded at the rate of 36 seeds per square foot, and consisted of six, 7.5-inch rows trimmed to about 16 feet long before harvest. There were three replications. Yields were corrected to 13.5% moisture. Entries treated with seed-applied insecticide have insecticide treatment identified by product trade name in the tables.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Cooperator</b>	<b>Soil type</b>	<b>Planting date</b>	<b>N fertilizer</b>	<b>Harvest date</b>
Elkville	Trent Funk	Hoyleton silt loam	Oct. 10	30 Fall 100 Spring	June 12
Belleville	Ron Krausz	Ebbert silt loam	Oct. 11	30 Fall 85 Spring	June 12
Neoga	Dennis Brown	Wynoose silt loam	Oct. 5	30 Fall 100 Spring	June 19
Perry/Orr Center	Mike Vose	Clarksdale silt loam	Sept. 30	30 Fall 80 Spring	June 20
Urbana	Jeff Warren	Flanagan silt loam	Sept. 26	30 Fall 40 Spring	June 22
Hampshire	Dezeri DeRaedt	Drummer sily clay loam	Sept. 29	30 Fall 80 Spring	July 17

Participating companies are listed on Page 2, regional data in Tables 1 and 2, individual location data in Tables 3 to 8, wheat variety characteristics in Table 9, and the Fusarium head scab ratings in Table 10.

## Participating Companies

We thank these companies for their support of this program in 2017.

AgriMAXX Wheat Co  
7167 Highbanks Rd  
Mascoutah, IL 62258  
(855) 629-9432

Equity Seed  
PO Box 978  
Westfield, IN 46074  
(888) 898-7333

Martin Seeds, Inc.  
10045W Second  
Williamsport, IN 47993  
(765) 986-2030

Beck's Hybrids  
6767 E 276<sup>th</sup> St  
Atlanta, IN 46031  
(317) 984-3508

GROWMARK, Inc.  
1701 Towanda Ave., PO 2500  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
(309) 557-6399

Miller Bros. Farm & Fertilizer  
2001 Niemannsville Trail  
Walshville, IL 62091  
(217) 456-9311

BioTown Seeds  
Box 299  
Reynolds, IN 47980  
(219) 984-6038

Hoffman Seed House  
PO Box 66, 200 E 4<sup>th</sup> St  
Hoffman, IL 62250  
(618) 495-2617

Pro Harvest Seeds, Inc.  
2737 N 700 E Rd  
Ashkum, IL 60911  
(815) 698-2204

CROPLAN by Winfield  
1050 CR F West/MS5850  
Shoreview, MN 55126  
[www.winfield.com](http://www.winfield.com)

Kitchen Seed Company  
PO Box 286  
Arthur, IL 61911  
(217) 543-3476

Pro Seed Genetics  
N 4297 City Hwy E  
Kewaunee, WI 54216  
(920) 988-2824

DeRaedt Seed Corp.  
10 N 971 Tower Road  
Hampshire, IL 60140  
(847) 514-8844

Kratz Farms LLC  
4380 Sherman Road  
Slinger, WI 53086  
(262) 644-9426

Stone Seed Group  
5965 W State Route 97  
Pleasant Plains, IL  
217-546-8006

DuPont Pioneer  
421 Detroit Drive  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
(800) 950-3489

Lewis Hybrids, Inc.  
530 West Maple Ave.  
Urso, IL 62376  
(217) 964-2131

Syngenta  
14031 Trestle Rd  
Highland, IL 62249  
(765) 412-5420

Dyna-Gro Seed  
2660 Orr Rd.  
Bloomville, Ohio 44818  
419-310-6370

Limagrain Cereal Seeds  
2040 SE Frontage Rd  
Ft. Collins, CO 80525  
(970) 498-2200

UniSouth Genetics, Inc.  
3205C HWY 46 S  
Dickson, TN 37055  
(615) 515-3133

Virginia Crop Improvement  
9225 Atlee Branch Lane  
Mechanicsville, VA 23116  
(804) 746-4884