

WHEAT PERFORMANCE IN ILLINOIS TRIALS - 2021
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The 2020-21 wheat growing season in Illinois was excellent. Winter wheat area harvested was 650,000 acres, up 25% from the previous growing season. Average yield was 80 bushels/acre, up 18% from the previous year.

The weather conditions were favorable. Winter was mild and spring was cool and rainy. A period of dry weather occurred between flowering and maturity, which lead to ample solar radiation during grain filling. This is important for yield and may have been a major contributing factor to the high average yield observed, this season.

Diseases were generally not a problem. Stripe rust, caused by *P. striiformis* var. *tritici* was sighted in some fields, but did not reach epidemic levels. Fusarium Head Blight, also known as Scab, caused by *Fusarium graminearum* was generally not a problem, although outbreaks were noted in some fields where susceptible varieties were planted.

For much of the state, heavy rain occurred around harvest time. Some were able to harvest before the rain arrived. For others, the rain occurred before harvest when the grain was still at high moisture levels and test weights were largely unaffected. Those that experienced heavy rain after the grain was dry likely lost test weight due to preharvest sprouting. In one of our breeding trials we observed a 4 pound/bushel decrease in test weight after a 6-day delay in harvest due to rain. Interestingly, a 3 bushel/acre decrease in yield was also observed. This is a good reminder that timely harvest is critical for wheat to be profitable. Harvesting wheat at high moisture levels, followed by drying, can be a good way reduce the risk of wheat yield and quality loss at harvest. Selecting a variety with high test weight can also help ensure that test weights remain above the discount threshold even when some test weight is lost due to weather.

To aid variety selection decisions, we present these wheat variety testing results from 6 locations across the state of Illinois. Plots were seeded at the rate of 36 seeds per square foot, and consisted of six, 7.5-inch rows trimmed to about 16 feet before harvest. Yields were corrected to 13.5% moisture. Entries treated with seed-applied insecticide have insecticide treatment identified by the product trade name in the tables.

Location	Cooperator	Soil type	Planting date	N fertilizer	Harvest date
Elkville	Trent Funk	Hurst silt loam	Oct. 6	30 Fall 110 Spring	June 22
Belleville	Dane Hunter	Ebbert silt loam	Oct. 8	30 Fall 85 Spring	June 23
St Peter	Russ Schwarm	Hoyleton silt loam	Oct. 6	0 Fall 120 Spring	June 24
Perry/Orr Center	Luke Merritt	Clarksdale silt loam	Oct. 8	30 Fall 80 Spring	July 2
Urbana	Nick Eisenmenger	Flanagan silt loam	Sept. 27	30 Fall 40 Spring	June 29
Hampshire	Dezeri DeRaedt	Drummer silt loam	Oct. 7	30 Fall 80 Spring	July 8

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 2021.

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

Dyna-Gro Seed
200 W 2nd St.
Flora, IL 44818
(618) 578-0660

KWS Cereals
4101 Colleen Dr
Champaign, IL 618/22
217-800-1008

AgriPro
1521 N Convent St.
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 370-3291

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

Monier Seed & Service
846 Yankee Lane
Sparland, IL 61565
(319) 464-5708

Albert Lea Seed
1414 W. Main
Albert Lea, MN 56007
(800) 352-5247

Green Valley Seed
121 West College St
Kahoka, MO 63445
(800) 748-7943

Michigan State University
1066 Bogue St A286
East Lansing, MI 48824
(217) 353-0142

American Organic
1676 CR 2200 E
St Joseph, IL
(217) 469-2351

Hoffman Seed House
PO Box 66
Hoffman, IL 62250
(618) 495-2617

Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l Inc.
7100 NW 62nd Ave.
Johnston, IA 50131
(800) 247-6803

BioTown Seeds
373 N Diener Rd
Reynolds, IN 47980
(219) 984-6038

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

VCIA
9225 Atlee Branch Lane
Mechanicsville, VA 23116
(804) 746-4884

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

Kratz Farms LLC
4380 Sherman Road
Slinger, WI 53086
(262) 305-6631

Williamsfield Seed Co.
1122 Knox Highway 18
Williamsfield, IL 61489
(309) 639-2248