

WHEAT PERFORMANCE IN ILLINOIS TRIALS - 2023

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Illinois producers planted 650,000 acres of winter wheat in the fall of 2021 and harvested 560,000 acres in 2022, with an average yield of 79 bushels per acre. Boosted by high world wheat prices, high wheat and good double-crop soybean yields, and dry fall weather, planted acreage jumped to an estimated 940,000 acres for the 2023 crop – the highest planted wheat acreage in Illinois since 2008.

Overall the 2023 winter wheat growing season was good to very good. The USDA projections in May and June estimated 790,000 acres of harvested area, and average yields were forecasted at 78 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from 2022. While the estimated harvested area decreased to 780,000 acres in July's report, the USDA increased the yield average forecast to a record level of 84 bushels per acre – up 5 bushels from 2022. The crop was planted at about the usual time last fall, with 50% planted by October 17. Crop growth and development was ahead of normal, given the warm and dry weather in most of spring. Statewide wheat heading was at 74% compared to the 5-year average of 56%, with ratings 62% good + excellent. Wheat harvest began the second half of June and ended the first half of July. While the actual average yield is still being determined, it seems that many growers were pleasantly surprised by the yield in spite of the circumstances.

Beyond yield, grain quality tended to be high. Dry conditions during grain filling and during harvest promoted high test weights and low vomitoxin levels. In fact, very little vomitoxin was detected this year. In part due to high wheat prices, most wheat growers applied a fungicide at flowering to control head scab. Without a doubt, this fungicide application played a role in keeping vomitoxin at bay.

To aid variety selection decisions, we present these wheat variety testing results from 6 locations across the state of Illinois. We had a total of 1288 entries for the 2023 season. 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.

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 2023.

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

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

Langdon Bros Seed
3590 S 100E
Hartford City, IN 47348
(800) 526-4366

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

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

Martin Seed
10280 West SR 28
West Lebaon, IL 47991
(217) 649-6348

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

Kennel Seed Farms
2153 County Rd D
South Wayne, WI 53587
(608) 293-2200

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

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

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

Viking
1414 W Main, PO Box 127
Albert Lea, MN 56007
(800) 352-5247

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

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

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

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

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

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