

WHEAT PERFORMANCE IN ILLINOIS TRIALS - 2005
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After the wet fall and high corn and soybean yields of 2004, wheat acreage in Illinois slipped to 650,000 acres in 2004-05. The weather during the fall of 2004 was wetter than normal, and in some places the crop could not be planted by the end of October, leading to both failure to get wheat planted and to some very late planting. Wheat got off to a fair start, though there was some excessive rainfall in January that resulted in ponding.

The crop came through the winter in fairly good condition. The weather in March and April was outstanding for the wheat crop – cool and dry, and thus good conditions for tillering. Conditions stayed relatively dry through most of the spring growing season, and there was virtually no disease on the 2005 crop. Heading was at about the normal time, but continued warm and dry conditions brought the crop along rapidly, and harvest was a few days earlier than normal.

According to the July 2005 estimate, yield on acres harvested this year is 64 bushels per acre. Yields in all of the variety trials reported here were good to excellent, with the exception of the trial at Perry, in West-Southwestern Illinois. Reasons for this are not clear - there was no discernible disease, insect, or weed pressure at that location. The crop did not look as good as expected all spring, however, and it did not yield as well as wheat in other trials nearby. We are rotating onto some different fields there to see if we can produce yields more in line with the potential at that site.

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. As there were few diseases to rate, we did not take systematic ratings at any of the locations. But this year, we are again including Fusarium head scab ratings from Dr. Fred Kolb's misted, inoculated scab trial at Urbana. While we asked seed companies not to include entries treated with seed-applied insecticide (Gaucho), we did treat seed of four varieties in each location as a test of yield response to this input.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Cooperators</u>	<u>Soil type</u>	<u>Planted</u>	<u>N fertilizer</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
Dixon Springs	Steve Ebelhar Ron Hines	Grantsburg silt loam	Oct. 22	40 Fall 75 Spring	June 23
Belleville	Ron Krausz	Ebbert silt loam	Oct. 7	40 Fall 70 Spring	June 22
Brownstown	Lindell Deal	Cisne silt loam	Oct. 7	40 Fall 70 Spring	June 22
Orr Center	Mike Vose	Clarksdale silt loam	Oct. 4	40 Fall 60 Spring	June 27
Urbana	Bob Dunker Mike Kleiss	Flanagan silt loam	Oct. 1	40 Fall 40 Spring	June 28
DeKalb	Lyle Paul Dave Lindgren	Drummer silty clay loam	Sept. 22	40 Fall 40 Spring	July 11

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Participating Companies

Following is a list of addresses and phone numbers of companies that entered wheat varieties in the 2005 University of Illinois trials reported in this publication. We thank these companies for their support of this program, which is designed as a neutral comparison of all wheat varieties available for production in Illinois.

AgriPro COKER
Box 411 East 8th St.
Brookston, IN 47923
(765) 563-3111

Brown Seed Enterprises, Inc.
289 Co. Rd. 550 N
Neoga, IL 62447
(217) 895-2335

DeRaedt Seed Corp.
10 N 971 Tower Road
Hampshire, IL 60140
(847) 464-5553

Diener Seeds, Inc.
371 N. Diener Rd.
Reynolds, IN 47980
(219) 984-5837

Excel Brand Seeds
Box 320
Camp Point, IL 62320
(888) 593-7707

Green Valley Seed
P.O. Box 135
Kahoka, MO 63445
(660) 727-3341

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

JGL, Inc.
3540 S. US 231
Greencastle, IN 46135
(765) 653-5402

Kaltenberg Seed
P.O. Box 278
Waunakee, WI 53597
(608) 849-5021

Lewis Hybrids, Inc.
530 West Maple Ave.
Ursa, IL 62376
(800) 252-7851

Merschman Seeds, Inc.
103 Ave. D.
West Point, IA 52656
(800) 848-7333

Miles Seed
P.O. Box 22879
Owensboro, KY 42304
(800) 685-0877

Ohio Seed Improvement Assoc.
6150 Avery Rd.
Dublin, OH 43013
(614) 889-1136

Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l.
14171 Carole Drive
Bloomington, IL 61704
(800) 950-3489

Royster-Clark, Inc.
717 Robinson Road SE
Washington C.H., OH 43160
(800) 659-7790

Steyer Seeds
6154N Co. Rd. 33
Tiffin, OH 44883
(800) 231-4274

Syngenta Seeds, Inc.
P.O. Box 1240
Winterville, NC 28590
(252) 746-3004

UAP Richter Co.
1267 W. Washington
Pittsfield, IL 62363
(800) 533-8309

Wilken Seed Grains, Inc.
P.O. Box 770
Pontiac, IL 61764
(815) 844-3458