

WHEAT PERFORMANCE IN ILLINOIS TRIALS - 2019
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The 2018-19 Illinois wheat crop was a fairly average one: yields were less than in recent years, and grain quality was generally acceptable. Planted acres for 2019 were 640,000, up from 600,000 acres in 2018, and harvested area was 590,000 acres, up from 560,000 acres in 2018. The 2019 Illinois wheat yield was 63 bushels per acre, down from 66 bushels per acre in 2018 and the record-high 76 bushels per acre in 2017.

Wheat planting in the fall of 2018 was delayed by wet weather: only 86% of the wheat crop emerged by November 25, and 54% of it was in good or excellent condition on that date. The crop overwintered without any serious issues; the good + excellent rating was 55% on April 7. April was cool and May was wet; the G+E crop condition rating fell to 40% by May 5 and fell further, to 30%, by June 2. Only 9% of the crop was headed by May 5, and 35% by May 12, compared to a 5-year average of 53% in that date. Only 87% of the crop was reported to have headed by June 2, compared to 95% averaged over the previous five years.

With May rainfall ranging from 25 to 50% above normal in most of southern Illinois, and more than twice normal in much of the northern half of the state, there were considerable fears that Fusarium head blight (FHB), or scab, would turn out to be a major problem. Frequent rain also made it difficult to apply fungicide at the right time. As it turned out, there was some FHB in many fields, but levels were not as high as had been feared, and there were few reports of market discounts due to high DON levels. Wet June weather brought harvest delays, however: only 47% of the Illinois wheat crop was harvested by the end of June, and it was the end of July before harvest was completed. Although FHB amounts were not high, test weights were in the mid-50s in many fields, likely due to some drying and rewetting as harvest was delayed.

The 2018-19 wheat variety trials were planted on time, but harvest was later than usual at most locations—see the table below. 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 product trade name in the tables.

All trials were harvested in 2019, but data from Urbana and St. Peter (south-central IL) are not included in this because of high variability, mostly related to water damage. Lodging was rated at Hampshire, where heavy rain several days before harvest resulted in some lodging, but lodging did not affect yield, and also at Perry, where lodged varieties yielded a little less. It's not clear why some entries lodged at Perry, nor whether lower yields were directly related to lodging.

Location	Cooperator	Soil type	Planting date	N fertilizer	Harvest date
Elkville	Trent Funk	Wynoose silt loam	Oct. 2	30 Fall 110 Spring	June 28
Belleville	Ron Krausz	Ebbert silt loam	Oct. 9	30 Fall 85 Spring	June 28
St Peter	Russ Schwarm	Wakeland silt loam	Oct. 9	0 Fall 120 Spring	July 2
Perry/Orr Center	Mike Vose	Clarksdale silt loam	Oct. 2	30 Fall 80 Spring	July 8
Urbana	Nick Eisenmenger	Flanagan silt loam	Oct. 3	30 Fall 40 Spring	July 10
Hampshire	Dezeri DeRaedt	Octagon silt loam	Sept. 24	30 Fall 80 Spring	July 23

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 2019.

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

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

AgriPro
200 E 4th St
Hoffman, IL 62250
(618) 495-2617

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

Monier Seed & Service
846 Yankee Lane
Sparland, IL 61565
(309) 238-1227

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

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

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

CROPLAN by Winfield
1050 CR F West/MS5850
Shoreview, MN 55126
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

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

Dyna-Gro Seed
200 W 2nd St.
Flora, IL 44818
(618) 838-5024

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

GO Wheat
1530 HWY 79 South
Stuttgart, AR 72160
(800) 264-4433

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