



# Winter Wheat Seedings

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## Planted Acres Largest Since 1998

Winter wheat seeded area for 2003 is expected to total 44.2 million acres, up 6 percent from 2002. This is the largest area since 1998. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 32.1 million; Soft Red Winter, 8.2 million; and White Winter, 3.9 million.

**Winter Wheat: Area Seeded, United States, 2001-2003  
(Domestic Units)**

Item	Crop Year			2003 as Pct. of 2002
	2001	2002	2003	
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter Wheat	41,078	41,735	44,246	106

**Winter Wheat: Area Seeded, United States, 2001-2003  
(Metric Units)**

Item	Crop Year			2003 as Pct. of 2002
	2001	2002	2003	
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter Wheat	16,623,860	16,889,740	17,905,910	106

**Winter Wheat:** Planted area for harvest in 2003 is estimated at 44.2 million acres. This is up 6 percent from 2002 and is the largest acreage since 1998. Seeding began last August and advanced ahead of the 5-year average pace throughout the fall. Nearly all of the U.S. acreage was seeded by December 1. Most remaining intended area is in the Southeast and California. Seeding should finish sometime next month in California.

Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat seeded area is about 32.1 million acres, up 8 percent from 2002. Significant acreage increases are reported in all major HRW States. Two major factors, high prices at the time of seeding and last year's drought, contributed to the larger acreage. Prices were very strong this fall, especially during September and October when most of the winter wheat was planted. Last year's drought left soil moisture supplies low. Wheat requires less moisture than many alternate crops in the major HRW States, making it a more appealing option. Additionally, the drought left forage supplies limited, therefore many growers in the southern Great Plains planted wheat in hopes that enough moisture would be received to provide grazing.

Soft Red Winter area, at about 8.2 million acres, is down 1 percent from last year. Large acreage declines are noted in the Delta States, most Southeast States, and along the northern Atlantic Coast, due primarily to excessively wet conditions during the fall. Planted acreage increased significantly in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, where seeding conditions were good. Seeded acres also increased sharply in Georgia where growers continue to plant additional wheat in place of rye as a cover crop. Wisconsin growers planted a record high acreage.

White Winter wheat seeded area totals about 3.9 million acres, up 9 percent from 2002. Dry conditions prevailed across the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) during planting. Seeding progress was generally faster than average, however the dry soil conditions delayed emergence. Rising prices during planting contributed to the larger acreage.

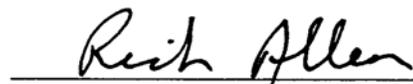
**Durum Wheat:** Seedings in Arizona and California for 2003 harvest are estimated at 178,000 acres. This total is down 3 percent from their final 2002 acreage. Seedings in California's San Joaquin Valley progressed rapidly during October and November. Planting began in the Imperial Valley in late November and will continue into March as the winter vegetable harvest is completed.

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This report was approved on January 10, 2003.



Acting Secretary of  
Agriculture  
James R. Moseley



Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
Rich Allen

**Winter Wheat: Area Seeded, by State and United States, 2001-2003**

State	Crop Year			2003 as Pct. of 2002
	2001	2002	2003	
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	170	150	150	100
AZ	6	10	7	70
AR	1,100	960	760	79
CA	530	530	580	109
CO	2,350	2,350	2,600	111
DE	60	60	55	92
FL	10	9	20	222
GA	300	350	380	109
ID	760	730	760	104
IL	750	680	800	118
IN	400	350	450	129
IA	25	20	20	100
KS	9,800	9,600	10,300	107
KY	550	550	500	91
LA	175	230	200	87
MD	190	195	150	77
MI	570	500	680	136
MN	15	35	25	71
MS	250	250	150	60
MO	900	900	880	98
MT	1,300	1,450	1,750	121
NE	1,750	1,650	1,700	103
NV	9	6	6	100
NJ	31	38	31	82
NM	500	520	480	92
NY	125	130	125	96
NC	680	650	550	85
ND	150	80	130	163
OH	950	860	1,000	116
OK	5,600	6,000	6,500	108
OR	750	800	950	119
PA	170	190	175	92
SC	220	210	210	100
SD	1,300	1,300	1,500	115
TN	500	470	460	98
TX	5,600	6,400	6,600	103
UT	140	140	155	111
VA	200	230	210	91
WA	1,850	1,800	1,850	103
WV	12	12	12	100
WI	170	190	205	108
WY	160	150	180	120
US	41,078	41,735	44,246	106

**Durum Wheat: Area Seeded, by State and United States, 2001-2003**

State	Crop Year			2003 as Pct. of 2002
	2001	2002	2003 <sup>1</sup>	
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	88	89	83	93
CA	85	95	95	100
MN	2	5		
MT	510	590		
ND	2,200	2,100		
SD	25	30		
US	2,910	2,909		

<sup>1</sup> Indicated 2003 area seeded for all six states will be published in "Prospective Plantings" released March 31, 2003.

The next "Winter Wheat Seedings" report will be released in January 2004.

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