



# Winter Wheat Seedings

Released January 12, 2004, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Winter Wheat Seedings" call Lance Honig at (202) 720-8068, office hours 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET.

## Planted Acres Down 3 Percent

Winter wheat seeded area for 2004 is expected to total 43.5 million acres, down 3 percent from 2003. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 31.0 million; Soft Red Winter, 8.3 million; and White Winter, 4.2 million.

**Winter Wheat: Area Seeded, United States, 2002-2004  
(Domestic Units)**

Item	Crop Year			2004 as Pct. of 2003 <i>Percent</i>
	2002	2003	2004	
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	
Winter Wheat	41,845	44,945	43,464	97

**Winter Wheat: Area Seeded, United States, 2002-2004  
(Metric Units)**

Item	Crop Year			2004 as Pct. of 2003 <i>Percent</i>
	2002	2003	2004	
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	
Winter Wheat	16,934,250	18,188,790	17,589,450	97

**Winter Wheat:** Planted area for harvest in 2004 is estimated at 43.5 million acres. This is down 3 percent from 2003. 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 31.0 million acres, down 4 percent from 2003. Acreage declines are reported in the southern Great Plains States, where moisture supplies remain low. The Texas High Plains only received 54 percent of normal rainfall during August, September, and October. As of November 30 in Kansas, 65 percent of the topsoil moisture was rated short to very short, and 69 percent of the subsoil moisture fell into that category. Germination rates in Colorado were below normal as the crop headed into dormancy. Nebraska planted acreage is unchanged from 2003 where crop condition ratings at the end of November were only slightly better than a year earlier. Growers in the Dakotas and Montana seeded more winter wheat than a year ago even though moisture is also short there. Emergence problems and lack of snow cover left growers concerned about the winter-hardiness of the crop.

Soft Red Winter (SRW) area, at about 8.3 million acres, is up slightly from last year. Several factors contributed to significant acreage increases in Missouri and Illinois, including record high yields last year, good prices, and some disappointment with alternative crop yields. North Carolina growers also planted substantially more wheat this fall, rebounding from last year's well below normal level. Most remaining SRW States planted fewer acres than last year, most notably Ohio.

White Winter wheat seeded area totals about 4.2 million acres, down 7 percent from 2003. Dry conditions across the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) hampered emergence and in many cases resulted in less than ideal stands. Acreage is down in all 3 States largely due to the lack of soil moisture. Some early planted fields in Washington were reseeded due to crusting.

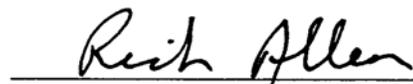
**Durum Wheat:** Seedings in Arizona and California for 2004 harvest are estimated at 180,000 acres. This total is down 27 percent from their final 2003 acreage. Planting is ongoing in California's San Joaquin and Imperial Valleys. No major problems with the crop have been reported.

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This report was approved on January 12, 2004.



Acting Secretary of  
Agriculture  
James R. Moseley



Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
Rich Allen

**Winter Wheat: Area Seeded, by State and United States, 2002-2004**

State	Crop Year			2004 as Pct. of 2003
	2002	2003	2004	
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	150	150	120	80
AZ	10	4	6	150
AR	960	700	680	97
CA	530	675	600	89
CO	2,350	2,600	2,300	88
DE	60	50	45	90
FL	19	20	20	100
GA	350	380	350	92
ID	730	760	720	95
IL	680	850	1,000	118
IN	350	460	430	93
IA	20	21	20	95
KS	9,600	10,400	9,900	95
KY	550	480	480	100
LA	230	155	190	123
MD	195	165	170	103
MI	500	680	600	88
MN	35	25	20	80
MS	250	150	190	127
MO	900	960	1,050	109
MT	1,450	1,800	1,850	103
NE	1,650	1,900	1,900	100
NV	6	7	6	86
NJ	38	31	24	77
NM	520	500	470	94
NY	130	130	100	77
NC	650	530	650	123
ND	80	130	240	185
OH	860	1,060	900	85
OK	6,100	6,600	6,400	97
OR	800	970	900	93
PA	190	175	140	80
SC	210	200	195	98
SD	1,300	1,600	1,700	106
TN	470	430	400	93
TX	6,400	6,600	6,200	94
UT	140	160	150	94
VA	230	210	200	95
WA	1,800	1,850	1,750	95
WV	12	12	8	67
WI	190	205	240	117
WY	150	160	150	94
US	41,845	44,945	43,464	97

**Durum Wheat: Area Seeded, by State and United States, 2002-2004**

State	Crop Year			2004 as Pct. of 2003
	2002	2003	2004 <sup>1</sup>	
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	89	115	100	87
CA	95	130	80	62
MN	5	2		
MT	590	640		
ND	2,100	2,000		
SD	30	28		
US	2,909	2,915		

<sup>1</sup> Indicated 2004 area seeded for all six states will be published in "Prospective Plantings" released March 31, 2004.

The next "*Winter Wheat Seedings*" report will be released in January 2005.

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