

Variety Selection, Seed Treatments

- Spread risks by planting a package of varieties.
- Select varieties based on maturity and product placement.
- Pay attention to product watch-outs. For example:
 - For wheat following corn, plant a variety with good resistance to Fusarium head blight (or plan to manage with fungicides).
 - For wheat on fields that have a history of manure applications, choose a variety with good lodging resistance.



- Manage Fusarium head blight (FHB). Getting acceptable control of FHB takes a multi-faceted approach. Combining all three management guidelines below can achieve up to 70 to 80% control. *100% control of FHB is not likely achievable.*
 - Planting after soybeans has less risk than planting after corn.
 - Select a variety that has a good genetic defense against FHB.
 - Apply labeled fungicides at correct timings and rates.



Wheat planted in corn stubble

Fall Fertility

- It is important to have an accurate soil test on the field and apply P and K as needed. P is most important for establishing a stand and for fall growth. As the soil cools in the fall, P availability becomes limited, so adequate soil amounts must be maintained.
- Wheat does not require huge amounts of fall N, but there needs to be 20 to 40 lb/acre available for fall growth and initial tillering. Applying 18-46-00 in the fall as a P source will likely get the required amounts of N.
- If manure has been applied in the past two years, there may be sufficient N available. A soil test should be pulled for evaluation.



Fall fertilizer application prior to wheat seeding

Images courtesy of Deere & Co.



Good seedbed conditions are important to successful stand establishment of wheat.

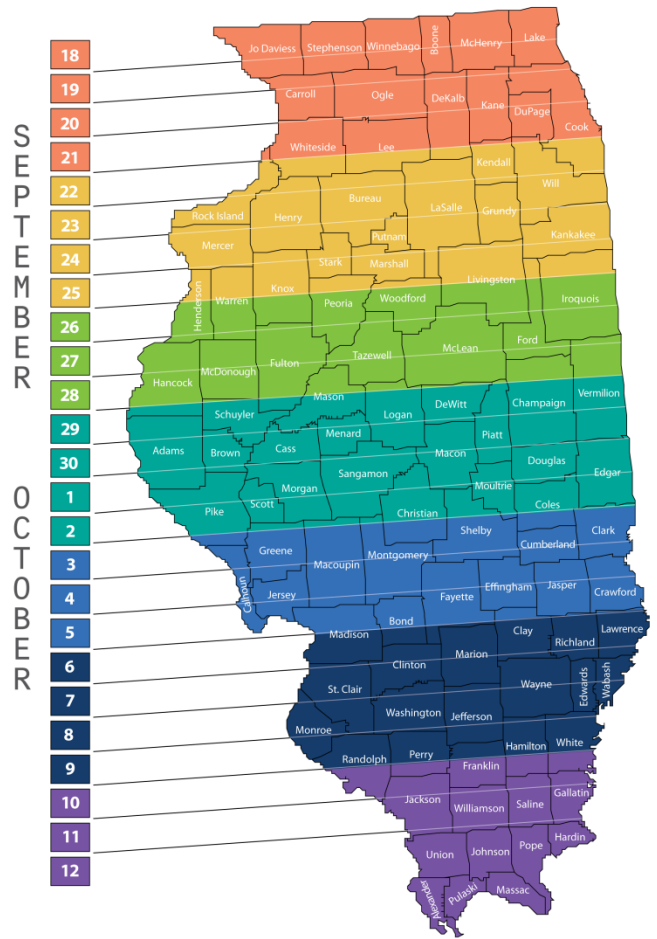
Seedbed Conditions

- A properly prepared seedbed will allow for good seed-to-soil contact and accurate depth control. When you think it looks good, make one more pass.
- If planting into heavy corn residue, it may take several tillage passes to chop and bury the residue. If proper tillage cannot be achieved, no-tilling may be a better option.



Planting Date and Rates

- Observe the “fly-free” date for your area. Optimum planting date will be on or within 10 days after that date. According to University of Illinois research, little yield loss occurs if wheat is planted within 10 days after the fly-free date. Planting too early encourages lush fall growth which puts the wheat at increased risk of Hessian fly, aphids, viruses, and fall infection of foliar diseases. Monitor aphid populations if fall weather conditions allow excessive growth.
- Seeding rates should range from 1.2 million to 2.0 million seeds/acre with optimum rates in the 1.5 to 1.8 million range.
- If planting no-till or in less than ideal conditions including no-till, or if planting late in the fall, increase rates to 1.6 to 2.0 million seeds/acre to compensate for possible lower stand establishment rates reduced fall growth and tillering.
- Properly calibrate the drill. Most manufacturers explain the process in the owner’s manual. The factory settings are close, but a quick physical calibration can lead to greater accuracy.



Hessian Fly-free Planting Dates

The maps that follow are based on data from University of Missouri Extension, University of Illinois Extension, and Purdue University Extension respectively.

