SEED NEWS 2019



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Haven't seeded winter wheat for a few years? Wondering if this is the time to try it again? Here are some reasons, we got back into the winter wheat game:

High yielding variety AAC Wildfire is causing farmers to rethink Winter Wheat

Every now and then a new seed variety comes along and turns your head. That's the way it was for us, when we saw the stats on AAC Wildfire Winter Wheat. It just looked that good.

We hadn't been growing winter wheat for some time and so it took some convincing to get the family back into the winter wheat game. Seeding winter wheat was going to distract us from the rest of harvest, and heaven knows selling winter wheat when we are busy with harvest was going to be painful for the guys. So we debated.. we hemmed and hawed ... and finally decided to take the leap and get back in the winter wheat game. We are happy that we did.

Not only was Wildfire the variety that we thought it would be, but ignoring that, we also got reacquainted with why winter wheat is a wonderful crop to grow. Here are some reasons to consider winter wheat in your rotation:

1) Winter wheat spreads the work out. Yes it is a bit challenging to be seeding winter wheat if you are still harvesting but the benefits of having less to seed in the spring and the ability to spread out the harvest workload (by harvesting winter wheat earlier than other crops) certainly more than offset that pain.

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Why consider winter wheat (continued)

- 2) Winter wheat gives you a head start on weed competition allowing the crop to get out of the ground and compete early with weeds.
- 3) Winter wheat has the advantage of benefitting from early spring moisture in dry climates and avoids the challenges of delayed challenging seeding conditions in wetter climates.
- 3) Winter wheat provides that cover crop that many farmers are looking for to protect their soil from wind and water erosion.
- 4) Winter wheat generally yields higher than spring wheat (the common guideline is to expect 15-20% higher yield than spring wheat on the same field).

So those are a few of the advantages of seeding winter wheat. Granted there can be challenges with winter survival in winter wheat but the latest varieties like Wildfire show very good winter survival rates.

If you want to seed winter wheat, now is the time. You will want to get your seed lined up and get it in the ground in time to ensure that the crop is up and has developed a crown root system prior to frost. For much of the prairies, the crop needs to be seeded between Sept 1 and Sept 15th. Here in southern Alberta you can push that a bit but it is important to get the crop seeded in a timely fashion.



For more information on AAC Wildfire winter wheat and how it stacks up to the other winter wheat varieties out there, give us a call (403-223-3900, 1-800-563-7333) or check out more information at: https://www.chinridge.com/news/whyconsider-winter-wheat-this-fall

For more ideas on what to seed this spring, see our website at www.chinridge.com for full variety descriptions and technical bulletins.

