

Wheat Management

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There is no single management plan that works best for every field and every environment of winter wheat. The following steps are general guidelines that, under most situations, will help achieve high yields on intensively managed wheat.

1. Select good varieties with high yield, disease tolerance, and winter-hardiness
2. Apply lime and fertilizer according to soil test
3. Calibrate planting equipment
4. Prepare the seedbed, either with a burndown herbicide for no-till, or a with tillage
5. Apply nitrogen: 30 lbs/acre applied (or as a residual from the corn crop)
6. Plant 4- to 8-inch row spacings
7. Plant in a timely fashion (balance of planting early enough to get ground cover, but late enough to prevent excessive growth and avoid Hessian fly)
8. Use a seeding rate of 40 seeds per square foot for no-till (up to 35 for conventional)
9. Aim for final stands between 25 to 35 seeds per square foot
10. Scout and spray an insecticide in the fall, if necessary for aphid
11. Scout and spray for weeds in the fall, if necessary
12. Check stand density near mid February
 - a. If stand is adequate (25 or more plants per square foot), apply 30 to 40 pounds of N mid to late February
 - b. If stand is thin (less than 25 plants per square foot), apply 40 to 50 pounds of N mid to late February
13. Apply an additional 50 to 60 pounds of N at Feekes 5 (mid-March)
14. Scout and spray for weeds in the spring, if necessary
15. Scout and spray fungicide if weather conditions favor disease development
16. Harvest in a timely manner (13 to 15% grain moisture)
17. Provide and prepare for adequate, safe storage space
18. Market wisely for optimum profits.