

Agricultural Marketing Guide >>



US Crops and Where They're Grown

Introduction

The United States is a market leader in many of the world's major crops. Understanding where and when major US crops are grown can help Canadian farmers market their crops. Reports on US seeded acreage, growing conditions, weather forecasts, production reports, and harvest progress are all relevant for Canadian farmers. Some reports, particularly in farm papers, are interesting news but they have little market significance. Other reports are very important. Knowing where the various crops are grown can help separate important market news from "market noise".

This article will show where each of the major US crops is grown. It will also show when the crops are planted, when they are in their reproductive state, and when they are harvested.

Corn, Soybeans, Barley, and Oats

The largest US crop in terms of total production is corn, the majority of which is grown in a region known as the "corn belt". The second largest crop grown in the US is soybeans. As with corn, soybeans are primarily grown in the Midwestern states. The US barley crop is of most interest to Canadian malt barley growers. US barley is grown over a wide area geographically and the US produces about 60 per cent as much barley as Canada. Although the US produces some oats, Canada is the world's largest oat exporter and supplies about 70% of the oats imported into the US. **Figure 1** and **Table 1** show the average annual production of each crop in the US, where they are grown, when they are seeded, when the crop flowers or heads, and when it is harvested.

Table 1 Crop production in the United States

Crop	Average annual production 2008-2012	Primary growing areas	Seeding	Flowering or heading	Harvesting
Corn	12 billion bushels	Iowa Illinois Nebraska Indiana Minnesota Ohio	April and May	July through first half of Aug	Oct and Nov
Soybeans	3 billion bushels	Illinois Iowa Minnesota Indiana Ohio	May and June	July through first 3 weeks of Aug	Late Sept through Oct
Barley	205 million bushels	North Dakota Montana Washington Idaho	April and May	July through first half of Aug	Late July to end of Sept
Oats	76 million bushels	Iowa Minnesota South Dakota North Dakota Wisconsin	April and May	July through first half of Aug	Aug and Sept

Source: USDA 2013 (http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_Subject/index.php);
 USDA 2010 (<http://usda01.library.cornell.edu/usda/current/planting/planting-10-29-2010.pdf>).

Wheat

The third largest crop grown in the United States is wheat. The US produces hard red, soft red, and white winter wheats and hard red and durum spring-seeded varieties. The US also produces very small amounts of white spring wheat. **Table 2** and **Figure 2** show the primary growing areas for each type of wheat, including the average seeding, heading, and harvesting dates.

Table 2 Wheat Production in the United States

Type of wheat	Average annual production 2008 - 2013	Primary growing areas	Seeding	Heading	Harvesting
Hard red winter wheat	951 million bushels	Kansas Colorado Oklahoma Texas	Late Aug to end of Oct	The following year from late April through early June	Late Aug to end of Oct
Hard red spring wheat	506 million bushels	North Dakota South Dakota Montana	April to May	Mid-June to mid-July	Mid-July to Mid-Sept
Soft red winter wheat	426 million bushels	Indiana Ohio Illinois N. Carolina Arkansas Tennessee	Late Sept to end of Oct	The following year from late April through early June	Late Aug to end of Oct
Soft white winter wheat	209 million bushels	Washington Oregon Southern Idaho	Early Sept to mid-Nov	The following year from mid-May to end of June	Mid-July to early Sept
Durum wheat	86 million bushels	North Dakota Eastern Montana South Dakota	April to May	Mid June to mid-July	Mid-July to mid-Sept
Hard white winter wheat	16 million bushels	Kansas Colorado	Late Aug to end of Oct	The following year from late April through early June	Late Aug to end of Oct

Source: USDA 2013 (http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_Subject/index.php);
USDA 2010 (<http://usda01.library.cornell.edu/usda/current/planting/planting-10-29-2010.pdf>).

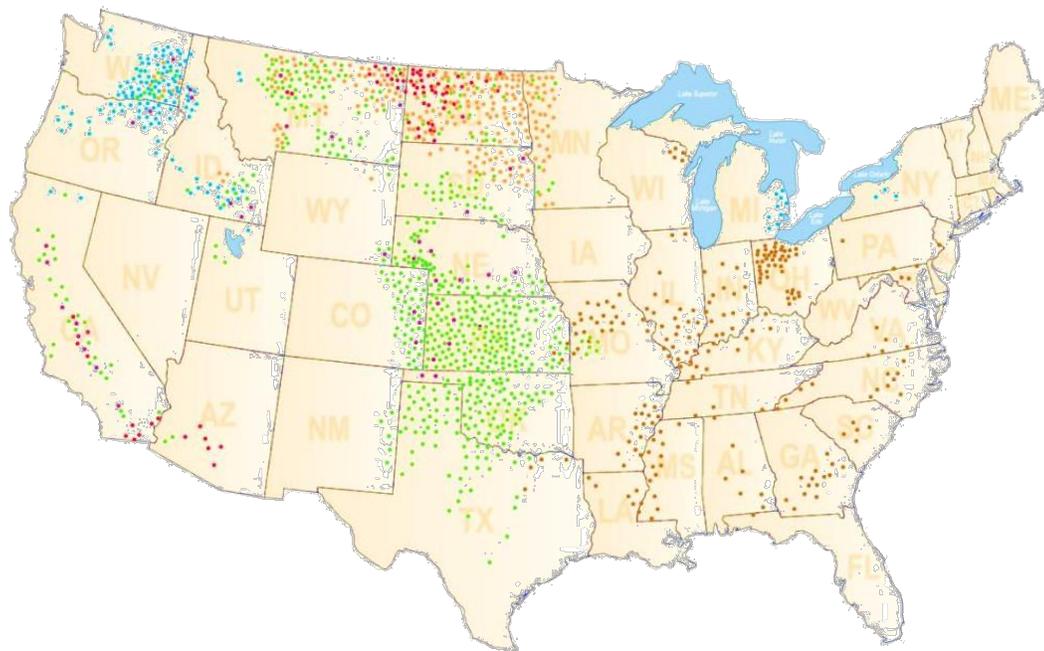


Figure 2 Wheat Production Areas in the United States

Source: National Association of Wheat Growers 2013

(<http://www.wheatworld.org/wp-content/uploads/about-wheat-production-by-class-20110606.jpg>).

Market Noise

The goal of this Agricultural Marketing Manual is to help farmers to decide what is "market noise" and what is market news. For example, if you hear a report that says that the corn crop in Texas is suffering from severe drought, you will know that is "market noise" rather than significant market news. Texas doesn't produce a great deal of corn. Or if you hear that the soybean crop in northern Alabama has been damaged by a frost, you'll know that is "market noise".

Exporting to the US

If you're interested in exporting to the US, see "**Exporting Grain, Oilseeds and Special Crops to the United States**" on our YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bvCmjWYyf0&list=PLOUwF01x2YU5pMx-R370Wu72rb9wsTJN&index=2>

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