

Wheat is an excellent winter forage with high protein content and good biomass production option for fall and spring grazing in pastures, but can provide good biomass in the cool season for row crops as well. Therefore, it can be considered for dual use (cover/grazing or grazing/grain) applications.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
Heavy Grazer TAM7306	Soft red winter wheat with high biomass or forage production. Cold hardy and disease resistant	Texas A&M AgriLife
Spring Wheat (LSC Trigger, TAMSpr 801)	Good choice for late ground cover in southern Blacklands. Can be similarly productive	Texas A&M AgriLife

Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (Inches)	0.5-1"	
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	Winter Wheat 55-100 Spring Wheat 100-150	Difficult to fit into corn or sorghum rotations when high biomass is the goal Can be planted later than cereal rye in southern half of Blacklands
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	Winter Wheat 80-120 Spring Wheat Not recommended	

Termination Information

Information	Source
<p>Wheat can be terminated by herbicides like glyphosate or diquat*, tillage, high density grazing and combinations of these practices.</p> <p>Termination timing depends on goals. Wheat is not as commonly used as cereal rye. However, many practices will be similar. For weed suppression, wheat should be terminated at milk to soft dough stage. To reduce potential nitrogen immobilization, wheat should be terminated before flowering (anthesis).</p> <p>There is little information available towards planting early into green wheat. Termination is recommended > 2 weeks prior to planting to allow soil moisture to decrease.</p> <p>*Always follow herbicide labels for crop to be terminated and for compatibility with subsequent crop(s). Consult your local Extension and state Pest Management Handbook for herbicide recommendations.</p>	

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Cultural Traits

Traits	Comments	Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	6,000-9,000	Personal Communications
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	15-35 Total N in wheat aboveground biomass is due to N scavenging. However, wheat is not as efficient at scavenging as cereal rye. The entire amount is not available during following growing season. Early termination may provide a small amount of N to following cash crop. Late termination can cause N immobilization due to high C:N ratio.	
Life Cycle	Cool season annual grain	
Growth Habit	Upright Good for forage in spring. Matures late for biomass production prior corn or sorghum	
Preferred Soil pH	5.8-7.5 Wheat for biomass can be successfully grown in alkaline soils in the Blacklands	
Relative Costs	\$-\$	Personal Communications
Min. Germination Temp	72F Wheat matures later than cereal rye. Spring wheat can mature >2 weeks before winter wheat.	Personal communications
Cautions	High biomass can cause temporary nitrogen immobilization (loss of fertilizer N). Add 20-30% of total N recommendation to overcome. Winter wheat requires vernalization (freezing weather), while spring wheat is a better choice in the southern Blacklands where temperatures in the winter may not be low enough for vernalization.	

Sources:

Texas A&M AgriLife

<https://agrillife.org/texasrowcrops/2019/08/02/wheat-variety-grain-picks-for-texas-2019-2020/>

Personal Communications with Blackland Farmers and Seed Suppliers.