

Wheat does not produce as much biomass as cereal rye, triticale or oats, but it can be a good cover crop for small-scale farmers. Seed costs are low and for some that is a deciding factor. You should use tested seeds to make sure are not planting noxious weeds. Bin run seed may not be tested so buyer beware.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
AGS 2024, AGS 2038, Pioneer 26R10, Pioneer 26R41		Georgia Forages
SS8641	Suppresses nematode populations.	Clemson University

Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (inches)	½ - 1 ½	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	60 - 70	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	70 - 100	Managing Cover Crops Profitably

Termination Information

Information	Source
<p>Most vegetable farmers use mowing and incorporation for termination. Flail mowers provide the finest residue and most even distribution, but rotary mowers can be used. Small scale farmers can use weed-eaters on smaller beds. Residue should be incorporated as soon after mowing as possible. Leave at least 2 weeks for residue to decompose before planting. If there is high biomass, then 3 weeks or more may be needed. Decomposition is greater in moist, warm conditions. If the soil is dry then irrigation may be necessary. Cool soils conditions will lengthen time needed before planting.</p> <p>Wheat is not recommended for organic no-till production as it does not produce adequate biomass for weed suppression in the subsequent cash crop compared to cereal rye.</p> <p>If using herbicides for termination, consult your local Extension and state Pest Management Handbook for herbicide recommendations. Always follow the herbicide label.</p>	Managing Cover Crop Profitably

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Cultural Traits

Traits	Comments	Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	3,000 - 6,000	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	10 - 25	This is nitrogen scavenged from soil. Unpublished Literature Review in Coastal Plain – Gaskin
Life Cycle	Cool season annual grain	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Growth Habit	Upright	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Preferred Soil pH	5.5 - 7.5	Not as tolerant of soil acidity as cereal rye. Georgia Forages, Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Relative Seed Cost (\$/acre)	\$\$\$	Based on survey of seed costs using maximum price and max seeding rate
Min. Germination Temp (F)	38°	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Cautions	Wheat does not generate enough biomass to effectively suppress weeds in following cash crop in a no-till system.	

Sources:

Georgia Forages: <http://caes2.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/forages/species/Wheat.html>

Managing Cover Crops Profitably: <https://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books>