



## Winter Wheat Seeding in 2009

Despite an anticipated late harvest, there is no need to rule out growing winter wheat just yet. With proper considerations and management, winter wheat may still be an option for you.

Winter wheat must be planted into a **good stand of stubble**. This is essential to ensure that enough snow is trapped to provide an insulating layer to assist winter survival. Canola stubble is typically the ideal option, but in a pinch alternatives can be used with proper management.

If you are able to seed (or re-seed) oats or barley for green feed or silage, if managed properly, the stubble can work quite well for winter wheat. The added benefit is that there may be strong demand for forage crops this year. Barley varieties such as CDC Yorkton provide substantial forage yields.

For growers in southern Manitoba, there may still be time to grow an early maturing product and have it off in time to get a winter wheat crop in. Ideally winter wheat should be planted by September 5<sup>th</sup> in this area, but it could be delayed a couple of weeks if necessary. In this situation, you should ensure that it is **seeded shallow to allow for quick emergence**, giving time for the plants to sufficiently develop prior to winter.

In a situation where no spring crop was planted, and the field has not been tilled, one option may be to chem-fallow to control weeds rather than cultivation. This would preserve the 2008 stubble, which would be enhanced with the carcasses of the dead weeds, and should provide an effective snow trap. Take care to **minimize tracking** in the field, however, by trying to continuously use the same tracks as previous operations.

The final consideration when growing winter wheat this year is to invest in certified seed. Certified seed ensures top quality and provides added risk management. Due to high levels of winter kill in the winter wheat crop this past winter, seed stocks of winter wheat may be limited. Contact your local CANTERRA SEEDS Authorized Seed Grower today to secure your supply of McClintock or AC Radiant. For a map of our Authorized Seed Growers visit [http://www.canterra.com/home/contact/find\\_a\\_retailer/](http://www.canterra.com/home/contact/find_a_retailer/).