

SW 665 - 152.32 Bu/Ac

HOW TO OBTAIN HIGH YIELDING WHEAT IN THE NORTHEAST

Q&A WITH MARK DEYSHER FROM BATH, PA

1ST
IN PA
5TH
IN THE NATION!

Q: Is this the first time you've seen wheat yields in the mid to upper- 100's?

A: No, last year the monitor hit similar yields but not for nearly as long. A few years ago, I changed my practices when it comes to wheat, and I started seeing drastic improvements in yields immediately following.

Q: What practices did you change to start noticing your yield increase?

A: I began with changing my fertilizer inputs. I run dry fertilizer through the drill, at about 125-130 pounds per acre. I plant 1.6-1.8 million seeds per acre, heavier if we get later into the season.

Q: What about fertilizer applications during the growing season?

A: I split apply my fertilizer based on the tillers in the early spring. If there are more tillers in the spring at the beginning, 3-5 tillers, then my first application has less nitrogen than the second application. If there are less than 3 tillers, my first application of nitrogen is heavy, this is to boost growth and tillers since they need the N to get growing and put the extra yield on. Then the second application will have much less nitrogen.

Q: What about fungicides during the growing season? Do you apply any?

A: The crop gets 3 fungicide applications, one at flag leaf and 2 at heading. The applications at heading are 8 days apart. I use two different fungicides, on the heading passes.

Q: What other management practices have you implemented that you would attribute to these high yields?

A: We vertical till the fields right after soybean harvest and then go in and plant. I also used to take the straw off of the fields in the summer and market that, but I no longer do. I leave the straw on the soil surface because I've found the value in leaving it there and capturing the nutrients and organic matter it supplies easily outweighs the benefit of baling it for straw. Planting date is key too, I've been pushing them earlier every year and that's key to getting those tillers established. I've shortened my soybean maturities mainly so I can get wheat into the ground early to drive my yields.

Q: Is there any advice you would give someone, outside of these practices, that was trying to push the yield on their wheat crop?

A: I would say not to treat your wheat crop like a secondary crop. It's easy to throw it out there and do the same thing you've been doing for years in hopes that you'll hit that high yield. But once you start treating it like you do corn or soybeans, you'll really start to see the difference. The genetics have definitely improved, they have helped push through the diseases and get us higher yields, but you really have to work with the crop and give it some attention if you want to push those yields even higher.



For More Information
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SW WHEAT VARIETIES

High Yielding Wheat is nothing we are new to. Check out some highlights from Seedway Wheat Plots previous years.

2024

PA - SW 535 - 123.1 bu./ac

NJ - SW 535 - 103.6 bu./ac

2023

NY - SW 665 - 131.5 bu./ac

PA - SW 644 - 149.4 bu./ac

PA - SW 665 - 154.7 bu./ac

PA - SW 644 - 118.5 bu./ac

PA - SW 541 - 116.6 bu./ac

Plant Stand Evaluation and Fertilizer Recommendations for High Yielding Wheat

Table 1. Plant stand counts for four row spacings and their relation to percent of yield potential.

Adapted from Table 3-4 of the University of Kentucky Extension Bulletin ID-125, "A Comprehensive Guide to Wheat Production in Kentucky."**

PLANTS PER FOOT

6" rows	7" rows	7.5" rows	10" rows	Percent of yield potential
12-14	14-16	15-18	20-23	100
9-11	11-13	11-14	15-19	90-95
8-9	9-11	9-10	13-14	75-80
6-7	7-8	8-9	10-12	60-70

Michigan State Wheat Fertilizer Recommendations

Table 2. Recommended nitrogen rates for winter wheat based on the formula $N = -13 + (1.33 \times \text{yield potential})$.**

Yield Potential (bu/a)	Nitrogen (lbs/a)
60	67
70	80
80	93
90	107
100	120
110	133
120	147

**Table from <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/evaluating-wheat-stands-and-spring-management>

For additional information regarding wheat, please reach out to your Seedway Representatives. If you are interested in entering the National Wheat Yield Contest, visit <https://www.yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org/> for rules and entry information.

