



**Leaving Cert Agricultural
Science**

Free Notes

Tillage - Wheat



Tillage Crops: Wheat



- Wheat (*Triticum* spp.) is a member of the gramineae family
- Second most popular cereal crop in Ireland with 80,000 hectares allocated to its production
- 75% of the wheat grown in Ireland is winter wheat providing a higher yield which is mostly used as animal feed.
- It's also used in baking industries
- Spring wheat is most suitable to flour production because of its higher protein content
- Wheat straw can be used in animal bedding or for mushroom compost.

Cultivation of wheat:

Soil suitability:

Well drained, sandy loam soils or brown earths
Tolerant to acidic soils when compared to barley
Will grow in soils of pH 5.5 to 7.0

Climate:

- Not as tolerant to cool climates like oats as it requires drier weather and more sunshine
- Wheat is mostly grown in the South East of the country

Preparation of seedbeds:

- Similar to Barley, land should be ploughed and harrowed to create a fine seedbed.

Time, rate and method of sowing:

- Winter wheat should be sown in October and spring wheat should be sown in February or March.
- It is sown using a seed drill/ one way system where seed and fertiliser are sown at the same time.

Wheat varieties:

Winter varieties: Cordiale, Einstein and Lion

Spring varieties: Sparrow, Raffles and Trappe

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