

ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal

Major advisory (Dec 16-31, 2025)

for

Sowings and other practices across zones of India

Crop Season 2025-26

Wheat sowing in India is progressing well, with overall acreage showing an increase area over the same period during the last year. Post-monsoon moisture has supported good field conditions, although some areas in Punjab and Haryana faced delays due to late paddy harvest and excess rainfall. Overall, farmers are steadily completing sowing within the recommended window, and the trend remains positive for the 2025-26 crop season.

General Tips

- ✓ Select a variety that suits late planting in your region and avoid using varieties from other zones to reduce the risk of disease susceptibility.
- ✓ Application of Nitrogen dose should be completed up to 40-45 days after sowing. Apply urea just before irrigation.
- ✓ Use optimal inputs and apply irrigation judiciously to maximize yield while saving water and reducing cost.
- ✓ Keep an eye on the weather before irrigation and avoid irrigation if there is a forecast of rain so that the situation of excess water can be avoided.
- ✓ Regularly monitor the crop for rust infection and consult nearby institute, SAU or KVK.
- ✓ Where ever late harvesting of previous crop is there, crop residue should be retained or incorporated in the soil and should not be burnt. In the presence of loose crop residue retained on the soil surface, Happy seeder or Smart seeder can be used for seeding wheat.
- ✓ In conservation till wheat, top dressing of urea should be done just before irrigation.

Wheat Varieties for sowing: Farmers who have not yet planted are advised to select varieties very carefully based on sowing time and the agro-climatic condition to get optimum yields.

Wheat Varieties for late, very late sowing in Northern, Eastern & Central India

| Variety | Production conditions | Zone |
|---|--|---|
| Late Sown Varieties | | |
| PBW752, PBW771, DBW173, JKW261, HD3059, WH1021 | Irrigated, late sown Upto December 25 | NWPZ: Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan (except Kota and Udaipur divisions) and Western UP (except Jhansi division), parts of J&K (Jammu and Kathua distt.) and parts of HP (Una dist. And Paonta valley) and Uttaranchal (Tarai region) |
| DBW316, PBW833, DBW107, HD3118, JKW261, PBW 752 | | NEPZ: Eastern UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Assam and plains of NE States |
| HD3407, HI1634, CG1029, MP3336, | | CZ: Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kota and Udaipur divisions of Rajasthan and Jhansi division of Uttar Pradesh |
| Very Late Sown Varieties | | |
| HD3271, HI1621, WR544 | Irrigated very late sown Beyond December 25 | All Zone |

Sowing time, seed rate and fertilizer application: Sowing time depending on the harvesting of the previous crop.

Zone-wise sowing seed rate and fertilizer dose for wheat crop

| Zone | Sowing conditions | Seed rate | Fertilizer doses and time of application |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------|--|
| NWPZ and NEPZ | Irrigated late sown | 125 kg/ha | 120:60:40 kg NPK /ha (1/3 N and full P & K as basal at sowing and remaining N in two equal splits at first and second irrigation) |
| CZ and PZ | Irrigated late sown | 125 kg/ha | 90:60:40 kg NPK /ha (1/3 N and full P & K as basal at sowing and remaining N in two equal splits at first and second irrigation) |

Irrigation and Nutrient application

- Farmers are advised to apply first irrigation after 20-25 days of sowing.
- Application of Nitrogen dose should be completed up to 40-45 days after sowing. Apply urea just before irrigation.
- Yellowing of wheat crop is a problem in some areas and it may be due to excessive irrigation, immobilization due to residue incorporation, deficiency of N (lower leaves), S (young leaves), Mg (older leaves as interveinal chlorosis) or foggy weather. Depending on the conditions remedial measure should be followed. If there is occurrence of frost then light irrigation may be given. For Mg deficiency spray 0.5% magnesium sulphate with 3% urea at 35-40 DAS. For S deficiency apply 3 kg/acre of S fertilizer before irrigation.
- For early sown high fertility conditions wheat, first spray of tank mix combinations of Chloromequat chloride 50% SL at 0.2% of commercial product + tebuconazole 25.9% EC at 0.1% of commercial product may be done at first node stage (50-55 DAS) using 160 lit/acre of water.

Weed management (Herbicide Spray)

- To control narrow leaf weeds in wheat, apply Clodinafop 15 WP @ 160 gm per acre or Pinoxaden 5 EC @ 400 ml per acre at around 35 days after sowing. To control broad leaf weeds, spray 2,4-D 500 ml/acre or metsulfuron 20 WP at 8 grams per acre or carfentrazone 40 DF at 20 g/acre at around 35 days after sowing.
- If there are both narrow and broad leaf weeds in wheat field then use Sulfosulfuron 75 WG @ 13.5 gm/acre or Sulfosulfuron+Metsulfuron 80 WG at 16 gm/acre in 120-150liters of water before the first irrigation or 10-15 days after irrigation. Alternatively, mesosulfuron + iodosulfuron 3.6%WDG @ 160 gm/acre can also be applied for control of diverse weed flora in wheat.
- For control of multiple herbicide resistant Phalaris minor (Kanaki/Gulli Danda), spray Pyroxasulfone 85 WG at the rate of 60 grams/acre alone or in combination with pendimethalin 30 EC 2.0 lit/acre 0-3 days after sowing or Spray ready mix combination of Aclonifen 450 + diflufenican 75 + pyroxasulfone 50 (Mateno More) @ 800 ml/acre 0-3 days after sowing using 150-200 lit of water or Spray ready mix combination of clodinafop + metribuzin 12+42% WP at 200 g/acre at 10-15 days after first irrigation using 120-150 lit of water.

Advice for rust disease: Farmers are advised to regularly inspect their wheat crop for early detection of stripe rust (yellow rust) and brown rust. Farmers are advised to inform or consult the wheat scientists/experts/extension workers for confirmation of yellow rust disease symptoms as sometimes yellowing of leaves may be due to other factors than disease. If farmers observe yellow rust in patches in their wheat fields, following measures are recommended:

- Apply one spray of Propiconazole 25 EC at the recommended dosage i.e. One ml of chemical should be mixed in one litre water and thus 200 ml of fungicide mixed with 200 L of water should be sprayed in one acre wheat crop. Spray should be carried out during clear weather conditions, avoiding rain, fog, or dew to ensure maximum efficacy.

Termite Control: In the termite prone areas, seed treatment with chloropyriphos @ 0.9g a.i./kg seed (4.5 ml product dose / kg seed), be taken up for their management. Seed treatment with thiamethoxam 70WS (Cruiser 70WS) @ 0.7 g a.i./kg seed (4.5 ml product dose / kg seed) or Fipronil (Regent 5FS @ 0.3 g a.i./kg seed or 4.5 ml product dose / kg seed) is also very effective.

Pink stem borer control: The incidence of pink stem borer is sometimes observed in fields of rice-wheat cropping system where wheat is sown in zero tillage fields. Affected plants turn yellow and can be easily uprooted. When the plants are uprooted, pink colored caterpillars can be seen on their lower veins. For its management, foliar spray of quinalphos (Ecalux) 800 ml /acre as soon as pink stem borer is seen. Irrigation also helps in reducing the pink stem borer damage.


(Ratan Tiwari)
Director