

ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal

Advisory (March 16-31, 2026) for Sowings and other practices across zones of India Crop Season 2025-26

Weather conditions during 16–31 March are expected to remain generally warm with a gradual rise in temperature. These conditions may speed up wheat maturity, so farmers are advised to closely monitor crop stages and plan irrigation and harvesting accordingly.

Some wheat varieties are showing purple or black coloration on the glumes and peduncle. There is no need to spray any chemical for this. This condition occurs due to above-normal temperatures during February and March and will not affect the grain quality or yield.

Irrigation management:

- Ensure proper drainage in wheat fields where recent rainfall has caused water accumulation. Remove excess standing water promptly to prevent crop lodging and potential yield loss.
- Irrigate the wheat crop as per need when wind speed is low to avoid the lodging of crop preferably in the evening hours.
- If there is continuous and high rise in temperature for more than 3 days then spray muriate of potash @ 0.2% (400g muriate of potash in 200 lit of water)
or
- spray potassium nitrate @ 2% (4kg potassium nitrate in 200 lit of water) after anthesis to mitigate heat stress.
- Apply the final irrigation at the grain filling stage to avoid shriveled grains and heat stress, ensuring better grain filling. Irrigation should preferably be carried out when wind speed is low to prevent lodging.
- In Southern Haryana and Northern parts of Rajasthan, sprinkler irrigation may be provided around 2:00 to 2:30 pm on the day of high temperature for one hour.

Advisory for Yellow, Brown and Black Rusts:

- Farmers are advised to visit their crop regularly to check for any incidence of stripe rust (yellow rust), brown or black rust. If farmers observe and have confirmed incidence of rust in their wheat fields, one spray of Propiconazole 25EC is recommended. One ml of chemical should be mixed in one litre water and thus 200 ml of fungicide mixed with 200 litre of water should be sprayed in one acre wheat crop.
- Farmers should spray the crop when weather is clear i.e. no rain, dew etc.


Advisory for Aphid:

- Keep a constant watch for leaf aphid (Chepa) in wheat. In case of high incidence of leaf aphids (ETL:10-15 aphid/tiller), farmers may use quinalphos 25% EC. Mix 400 ml of quinalphos in 200-250 liters of water and spray in one acre.

Harvesting:

- The region where crop has attained maturity, particularly in peninsular zone should be harvested using combine reaper. If the crop is harvested with hand, it should be dried up to optimum moisture (12-13%) for threshing.

- After harvesting of wheat, the left-over crop residue should not be burnt and it will be better if green gram crop is sown under no till conditions with residue, it will improve the soil fertility.


(Ratan Tiwari) 16/3/26
Director