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SHALL WE PLANT MORE SPRING WHEAT?

BY W. L. BURLISON<sup>1</sup>

**A Real Need for Spring Wheat.**—Last summer when the United Department of Agriculture launched a campaign for more wheat, Illinois was asked to increase the acreage planted to this crop by 24 percent. The campaign was begun after many farmers had planned their cropping systems for 1918. It was not possible, therefore, to increase the acreage of winter wheat sufficiently to meet this demand. The only way in which the state can now attempt to do what is expected of it is to increase the acreage of spring wheat. It may not be possible to increase the Illinois wheat crop 24 percent, but it will be possible to add considerable in this direction. There is a great shortage of wheat in the country and every acre which can be put into spring wheat with a possibility of success should be seeded to this crop.

**Where to Grow Spring Wheat.**—Spring wheat does best in cool climates. Northern Illinois can afford to seed a larger acreage of spring wheat than it has put in heretofore. Counties north of a line connecting the southern boundaries of Kankakee and Mercer counties are within the spring wheat zone. Counties south of this line and north of a line drawn between the southern boundaries of Champaign and Adams counties are generally considered as out of the zone of spring wheat production, but even in these counties there is likely to be a large acreage of spring wheat planted this year. (This statement is made on the basis of numerous inquiries which are coming from patriotic people of these counties.) In localities in the southern part of central Illinois some spring wheat may also be planted. In

<sup>1</sup>Associate Chief in Crop Production.

northern Illinois a large acreage of spring wheat should be planted. In central Illinois it is suggested that from five to ten acres be planted on each farm; this acreage to be taken from the land which is normally planted to oats.

**Varieties Best to Use.**—For some time the University of Illinois has conducted variety tests of spring wheat in DeKalb county, in northern Illinois, and in Champaign county, in central Illinois, and in both regions the Marquis wheat has given results which indicate that it is one of the best, if not the best, variety. As an average of results for the last three years, the Marquis produced 32.2 bushels per acre at DeKalb and 24.2 bushels at Urbana. Durum, Red Fife, and Blue Stem have also given fairly good yields—more than 20 bushels per acre as a three-year average.

**Soil and Soil Preparation.**—Spring wheat should be seeded on rich land. It is highly desirable that land for spring wheat be treated with manure and phosphate; but clover plowed under may take the place of manure. Good corn ground is likely to produce good spring wheat. Fall-plowed land is desirable always, but in many instances growers have disked stalk land thoroly and seeded to spring wheat and have obtained good yields. Plowing, however, is more desirable if this can be done without delaying seeding too long.

**Time and Rate of Seeding.**—Spring wheat should be seeded in central Illinois during the month of March; or just as soon as the land can be well worked and the crop planted. As a rule, one and one-half bushels per acre will be found most satisfactory. It is best to seed spring wheat before seeding barley or oats.

As a rule, spring wheat is harvested at about the same time that early oats are harvested or just before late oats are cut.

**Market Value.**—At the present time there is no difference in the price of winter and spring wheat, based upon government schedule.

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**Note**—The Experiment Station does not have seed of spring wheat for sale.