

FACTORS THAT IMPACT

Wheat

Wheat is a major winter crop grown in Australia with sowing starting in autumn and harvesting, depending on seasonal conditions, occurring in spring and summer. The main producing states are Western Australia, New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and Queensland.

Wheat is widely adapted throughout the world and can grow in most climates. The cultivation of wheat was started some 10,000 years ago, with its origin being traced back to south east Turkey. Back then it was called Einkorn.

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS AFFECTING WHEAT GROWTH IN AUSTRALIA?

Climate change is putting pressure on wheat production in Australia in several ways:

- Lower annual and autumn and spring rainfall means later starts to the growing season which means higher temperatures during the growing season
- Potential wheat yields decline
- More pests causing damage to wheat
- Increase of droughts, and flooding which means crop can't be grown

INTERESTING FACTS

Wheat is the world's largest rain-fed crop in terms of harvested area and supplies about 20% of all calories consumed by people. A new study has found that unless steps are taken to stop climate change, up to 60% of current wheat-growing areas worldwide could see simultaneous, severe and prolonged droughts by the end of the century.

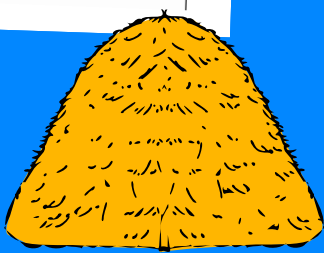
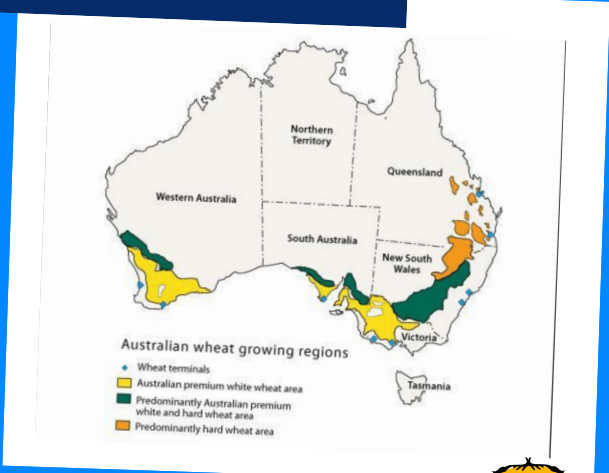


MORE FACTS

- PREVIOUS RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT GLOBAL WHEAT PRODUCTION IS STRONGLY DEPENDENT ON THE AVAILABILITY OF WATER, BOTH DURING AND BEFORE THE CROP-SPECIFIC AND TYPICALLY UNIRRIGATED GROWING SEASON. DROUGHT EFFECTS WERE ALSO IMPLICATED AS ONE OF THE KEY DRIVERS IN THE 2007-2008 SPIKE IN GLOBAL WHEAT PRICES.
- FORTY-THREE PERCENT OF BREAD'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE FERTILIZERS USED TO GROW WHEAT.



MAP



MORE SUSTAINABLE CHOICES

- SOME MORE SUSTAINABLE WAYS FARMERS CAN GROW CROPS IN AUSTRALIA TO SLOW DOWN CLIMATE CHANGE ARE:
- CHANGING STOCKING RATES
 - ROTATIONAL GRAZING METHODS
 - IMPROVING PASTURES
 - PLANTING FORAGE CROPS AND PASTURE LEGUMES
 - IMPROVING BREEDER HERD EFFICIENCY
 - IMPROVING SOIL CARBON AND SOIL HEALTH
 - PLACING LIVESTOCK IN DROUGHT-LOTS
 - ALTERING THE PROPORTION OF CROPPING AND LIVESTOCK IN MIXED ENTERPRISES
 - IMPROVING WATER USE EFFICIENCY
 - SOWING IMPROVED PASTURES
 - MANAGING ANIMAL NUTRITION



INFORMATION SOURCES

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