

EGA Wedgetail

Dual Purpose Milling Quality Wheat

VARIETY SUMMARY

- Prime Hard (APH) winter wheat available for early sowings in southern NSW
- AH quality in northern and Central NSW, APW in VIC, SA & WA.
- Late maturity and a winter growth habit make EGA Wedgetail ideal for early winter grazing
- Acid Soil tolerant
- Strong straw and good grain size

AREA OF ADAPTATION

Adapted to the higher rainfall regions of southern and central NSW, eastern tablelands of northern NSW, north east and south west Victoria, south east SA and south west WA.

EGA Wedgetail is adapted to all soil types and is particularly suited to acid soils.

PLANT CHARACTERISTICS

EGA Wedgetail is an awned variety with white chaff that is of a similar plant height to Rosella. EGA Wedgetail has similar lodging resistance to Rosella and is not prone to shedding.

GRAIN YIELD

Table 2. Long term grain yield data (NVT 2004-10)

Variety	South West VIC	North East VIC (early sown)	Southern NSW (early sown)		Northern NSW (early sown)	
			West	East	West	East
EGA Wedgetail	4.06	3.67	2.53	3.01	2.98	3.68
Chara	4.03	3.56				
Kellalac	3.92	3.51				
Sentinel 3R	4.19	3.85	3.04	3.55	3.55	4.38
EGA Eaglehawk			2.68	3.22	3.31	4.05

FORAGE PRODUCTION

Table 3. Dry matter production results (kg/ha) from Landmark Echuca (VIC) trial, 2008

Variety	22 nd April sowing			13 th May sowing			28 th May sowing		
	Peak dry weight	Total dry weight (3 grazings)		Peak dry weight	Total dry weight (3 grazings)		Peak dry weight	Total dry weight (3 grazings)	
EGA Wedgetail	611	2nd grazing	1640	1718	3rd grazing	2746	962	3rd grazing	1545
Brennan	801	3rd grazing	1703	2058	3rd grazing	2618	1351	3rd grazing	1949
EGA Eaglehawk	504	3rd grazing	1340	1511	3rd grazing	2380	932	3rd grazing	1632

MATURITY

A mid to long season winter wheat developed for mid April to mid May sowings. EGA Wedgetail has a vernalisation (exposure to cold temperatures) requirement which must be met before it will flower and produce grain. EGA Wedgetail has a similar maturity to Rosella, however maturity is relatively later in far northern NSW and Queensland.

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Table 1. NSW DPI 2011 disease ratings for EGA Wedgetail

Stripe rust		Leaf rust	Stem rust	Septoria tritici	Yellow leaf spot	Crown rot
Jackie	WA Yr17					
MR-MS	MR-MS	MS	MR-MS	MR	S	MS-S

EGA Wedgetail has the *Yr18* gene for resistance to Stripe rust. Although Seednet has no evidence to support it, agronomists and growers have reported that EGA Wedgetail has a reduced susceptibility to Stripe rust after grazing.

GRAIN QUALITY

EGA Wedgetail produces hard grained wheat that is eligible for Prime Hard (APH) classification in southern NSW, Australian Hard (AH) classification in Northern and Central NSW and APW in all other states.

 **AGRONOMIC GUIDELINES****Grazing**

- A major advantage of dual purpose winter wheats is their ability to be grazed by stock. Long season winter wheats are the most suitable wheats for winter grazing as they do not begin to develop ears before mid-winter.
- Early grazing of autumn-sown wheat will remove leaf canopy and reduce growth to minimum rates. To encourage rapid crop growth and to maximise forage production, it is recommended to delay grazing the crop until the roots are firmly anchored.
- Close monitoring of EGA Wedgetail should take place during spring to ensure that any stock is removed immediately when above ground head formation is detected. Jointing (nodes present) is evidence that ears are well above ground level and that stock should have previously been removed.
- Growers should monitor the progress of the crop to best determine when stock should be removed. By vertically slicing main shoots, growers will be able to check that the growing point remains below the soil surface whilst grazing continues.

Nutrition

- For winter wheats, it is best to split Nitrogen application between time of sowing and spring (or after stock removal). Application of Phosphorus fertiliser to winter wheat is best banded with the seed or pre applied.

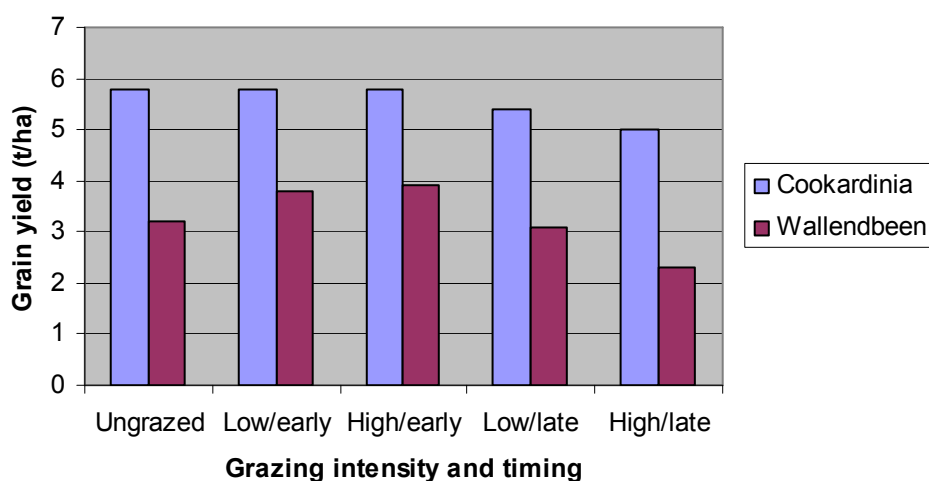
Weed Control

- It is important to take into consideration the WHP of any pesticides applied to the crop or seed prior to grazing.

Grain Yield After Grazing

Spring rainfall and temperature are the major factors that determine the grain recovery result following grazing cereal crops but the intensity and timing of grazing will influence yields.

The adjacent table shows results from NSW DPI trials involving grazing EGA Wedgetail wheat in 2005.

 **PLANT BREEDER RIGHTS AND ROYALTIES**

EGA Wedgetail is protected by Plant Breeder Rights, any unauthorised commercial propagation or any sale, conditioning, export, import or stocking of propagating material of this variety is an infringement under the Plant Breeder's Rights Act, 1994.

Growers are allowed to retain seed from production of this variety for their own use as seed only.

An End Point Royalty of \$1.60 per tonne (GST inclusive), which includes breeder royalties, applies to this variety.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EGA Wedgetail was bred by NSW Agriculture with support from EGA (Enterprise Grains Australia) & growers through the GRDC.

GRDC

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