

Wheat

Triticum aestivum · Grass family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Annual, cool-season, direct sown
MATURITY 20–28 weeks



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Moderate, low
near maturity



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



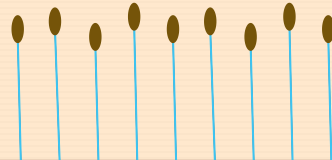
SPACING
Broadcast or
15cm rows



DEPTH
2–3cm

01 Dense stand

Unlike most crops on this site, wheat is grown as a dense, broadcast or close-row stand rather than individual spaced plants, then cut, dried, and threshed as a whole batch.



dense stand, cut and threshed as one batch

02 Planting

METHOD	Broadcast sow or in close rows, raking lightly to cover seed.
SOIL	Free-draining, moderately fertile. Avoid waterlogged ground.
TIMING	Sow in autumn for a summer harvest the following year.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Water moderately through active growth, tapering off as the crop nears maturity.
- Weed early — a dense stand outcompetes weeds well once established.
- No routine feeding needed for a home-garden-scale crop in reasonable soil.
- Watch for lodging (stems falling over) in wet, windy weather near maturity.

04 Problems

- **Rust** — orange-brown pustules on leaves and stems; improve airflow, remove affected plants.
- **Birds** — can strip a stand of ripening grain; netting may be needed for a small planting.
- **Lodging** — stems falling over from wind or excess water near maturity; avoid overwatering late in the season.
- **Weed competition when young** — hand-weed early before the stand thickens up.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Stalks and heads turn golden-brown and grain is hard, not milky, when squeezed.
METHOD	Cut the whole stand, dry fully, then thresh to separate grain from chaff.
CURING	Dry thoroughly before storage — damp grain spoils quickly.
STORAGE	Whole grain, cool dry airtight storage, 1–2+ years. Milled flour keeps only 3–6 months.
PRESERVING	See Dehydrating (drying grains fully for storage) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Not typically companion-planted — grown as its own dedicated stand	No strong known conflicts	Rotate with legumes where possible — a nitrogen-fixing crop the previous season benefits the following wheat stand.