



Maritime Winter Wheat – Early Planting is King!

Based on four years of data from the Maritime Yield Enhancement Network (YEN), we looked at the effects of both planting date and seeding rate on yield in winter wheat in the region.

When is the best time to plant?

Trends from the YEN data show **earlier is definitely better** for hitting higher yields in winter wheat. When we grouped the planting dates by the number of weeks following Labour Day, there was a clear trend that showed a linear decline in yield the later you wait to plant.

How much seed to plant?

If the crop is planted early enough a seeding rate of **1.5-1.7 million viable seeds per acre** is enough to maximize:

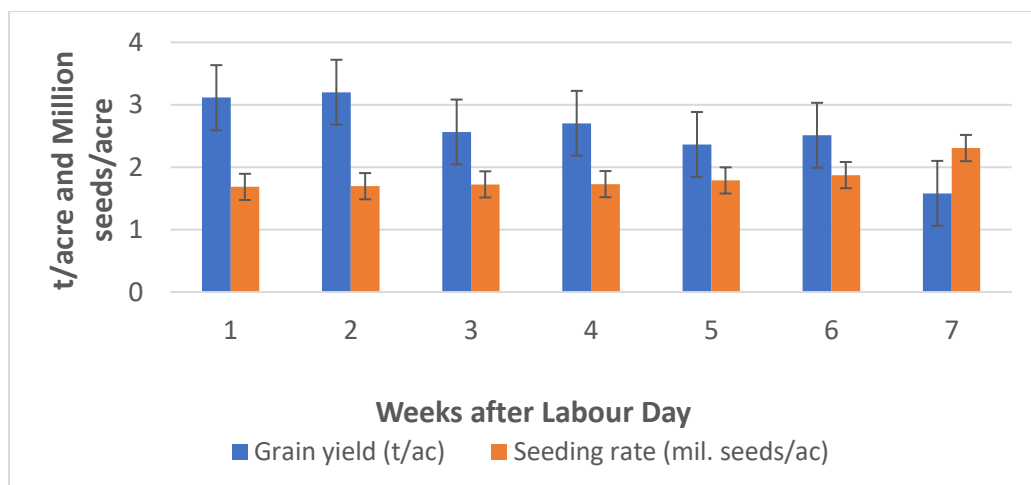
- Root production
- Initiate fall tiller formation
- Hit sufficient yields

Risk of planting later



Later planting results in lower grain yields. Factors which may contribute to yields loss when planting later include:

- No fall tillers formed
- Lower plant vigor heading into winter
- Susceptibility to frost heaving due to poor root formation



As most farmers increase the seeding rate for planting later, we can see the trend increase with the later plantings. However, even though there are approximately half a million seeds per acre more at the late planting than the early planting, the effect of planting date is still much stronger than seeding rate.