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# Ontario Department of Agriculture

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## SPRING WHEAT

DR. C. A. ZAVITZ, Professor of Field Husbandry,  
Agricultural College, Guelph

The world is calling loudly for food. Essential food materials in concentrated form should be increased as quickly as possible. Just previous to the war Canada produced, per unit of population, more food materials obtainable from farm crops than any of the other leading agricultural countries of the world. In this respect, she was followed in order by Argentina, the United States, Australia, Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, and Russia. It requires only from one-sixth to one-half the time to transport food materials from Canada to Great Britain as it does either from Australia or from the Argentine Republic. These facts point directly to the duty and to the opportunity of Canada in the performance of a great service to the world at this critical time.

### WHEAT AS A FOOD MATERIAL.

Wheat is used more extensively as human food than any other cereal. It is particularly rich in nutritive materials and, with the exception of rye, no other grain contains a gluten which is capable of expanding and forming light, porous bread. Wheat differs in composition from all other cereals in that its gluten is composed of two proteids—gliadin and glutenin. This gives flour its bread-making value. Bread can be made from wheat flour alone or in combination with flour from other grains. Wheat is easily grown, readily transported and conveniently stored when necessary.

### SPRING WHEAT IN ONTARIO.

The area of spring wheat grown in Ontario in 1917 was 182,957 acres, or 21 per cent. greater than that of the year previous. Owing to unfavorable weather conditions, the amount of winter wheat sown in this Province in the autumn of 1917 was considerably below the average. There should be a large area of land in Ontario well suited to the production of spring wheat for 1918. This crop requires about the same amount of labor as oats, barley, rye or buckwheat, and considerably less labor than any of the cultivated crops.

### KINDS OF SOIL.

Spring wheat can be grown successfully on a variety of soils. It thrives particularly well, however, on well drained, rich loam containing a fair amount of decaying vegetable matter. Fertile clay soils when well drained usually give satisfactory results in spring wheat production.