

Wheat grades

Representative samples (480) of the crop were graded as follows: 27 % was graded B1, 25 % was graded B2, 21 % was graded B3, 10 % was graded B4 and UT plus COW made up 17 %. This year 14 % more samples graded B1 compared to the previous year.

Grade B1 wheat in the Free State province amounted to 66 % (13 % the previous season) and grade B1 in other summer rainfall and irrigation areas amounted to 18 % (38 % in the previous season). In the irrigation areas 24 % (17 % in the previous season) of the wheat graded as B1 and in the Western Cape Province 18 % graded as B1 (8 % in the previous season).

Cultivars

In the winter rainfall area, SST 027 dominated the market. The Western Cape produced 40 % of all wheat grown in South Africa during the 2008/2009 season. In the Western Cape, SST 027 (40 %) were followed by SST 88 (24 %) and SST 015 (22 %).

The cultivar that dominated the market in the Free State was Elands (30 %) (23% the previous year). Elands was followed by CRN 826 (23 %), SST 835 (18 %) and then PAN 3118 and PAN 3120 with 16 % and 14 % respectively.

The cultivar CRN 826 (45 %) dominated the market in the Vaal and the Orange River areas, followed by SST 835 with 19 % and Duzi with 13 %.

SST 835 (36 %) and CRN 826 (33 %) dominated the North West (mostly irrigation), followed by Duzi (9 %).

In Limpopo, Gauteng and Mpumalanga SST 835 (31 %) was the dominant cultivar followed by Duzi (21 %) and CRN 826 (18 %).

The above information was calculated from the cultivar identification done on all 480 crop samples.

Mycotoxins

Mycotoxins, as secondary metabolites of moulds or fungi, can cause toxic effects in humans and animals consuming contaminated foods or feeds. Thirty samples (representing different regions) were selected randomly for mycotoxin analyses. These samples were tested for aflatoxin, deoxynivalenol and ochratoxin.

The highest Aflatoxin content found was 3 ppb ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$). In accordance with Act 54 of 1972, Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants, the allowable level of total aflatoxin is 10 ppb ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$). In accordance with Act 36 of 1947, Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural and Stock Remedies, the allowable level of total aflatoxin is 10 to 50 ppb ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$).

The average deoxynivalenol (DON) content was 0.47 ppm (mg/kg) with the highest value being 3.0 ppm.

Ochratoxin was found in one sample at a level of 1.0 ppb ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$).