

Wheat grades

Representative samples (480) of the crop were graded as follows: 38 % was graded B1, 22 % was graded B2, 18 % was graded B3, 4 % was graded B4 and UT and COW made up 18 %. This is very similar to the previous season.

Grade B1 wheat in the Free State province amounted to 59 % and grade B1 in other summer rainfall areas amounted to 44 %. In the irrigation areas 32 % of the wheat graded as B1 and in the Western Cape Province only 21% graded as B1.

Cultivars

In the winter rainfall area, two cultivars dominated the market. These two cultivars were SST 88 and SST 57. The Western Cape produced 34.2 % of all wheat grown in South Africa during the 2005/2006 season.

Two cultivars dominated the market in the Free State. These cultivars were SST 806 and Elands. Betta DN was also planted but in lesser quantities as well as SST 399, Gariep and PAN 3377.

The cultivar SST 806 dominated the market in the North West Province, the Vaal and the Orange River areas. Smaller quantities of SST 876, SST 826 and Olifants were planted.

In Limpopo, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal SST 806 and CRN 826 were planted mainly. This was followed by SST 825 and SST 876.

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 the different regions) were selected randomly for mycotoxin analyses. These samples were tested for aflatoxin, deoxynivalenol and ochratoxin.

Tests are no longer done for T2, as the fungi producing this mycotoxin only grows at very low temperatures. As from the 2004/2005 season, the SAGL no longer tests for fumonisin and zearalenone, because the fungi producing these toxins do not grow on wheat.

No aflatoxin was found on the 30 samples tested. 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 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$).

No ochratoxin was found. In 28 of the 30 samples tested, levels of deoxynivalenol were found, averaging 1.01 ppm.