

Wheat grades

Representative samples (480) of the crop were graded as follows: 28 % was graded B1, 27 % was graded B2, 22 % was graded B3, 9 % was graded B4 and UT and COW made up 14 %. This year about 10 % less samples graded B1 compared to the previous year.

Grade B1 wheat in the Free State province amounted to 36 % and grade B1 in other summer rainfall areas amounted to 33 %. In the irrigation areas 31 % of the wheat graded as B1 and in the Western Cape Province only 17 % graded as B1.

Cultivars

In the winter rainfall area, SST 88 dominated the market. The Western Cape produced 33 % of all wheat grown in South Africa during the 2006/2007 season. In the Swartland area of the Western Cape, SST 88 (37 %) were followed by SST 027 (28 %) and SST 57 (16 %). In the Ruëns area of the Western Cape, SST 88 (45 %) were followed by SST 57 (24 %) and SST 015 (14%).

The cultivar that dominated the market in the Free State was Elands (30 %). Elands was followed by Gariep (8%), SST 806 (7 %) and PAN 3118 (6%).

The cultivar SST 806 (34 %) dominated the market in the Vaal and the Orange River areas, followed by CRN 826 with 29 % and SST 876 with 7 %.

In Limpopo and Gauteng SST 806 (42 %) was the dominant cultivar followed by CRN 826 (15%), SST 876 (14 %), Olifants (12 %) and SST 825 (11 %). The cultivar planted most in the Mpumalanga area was SST 806 (36 %) followed by CRN 826 (20 %), SST 876 (12 %) and Olifants (7 %).

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.

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 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$).

Ochratoxin was found in six of the 30 samples tested ranging between 0.47 ppb to 1.4 ppb. In all samples tested, levels of deoxynivalenol were found, averaging 1.46 ppm, and ranging between 0.53 to 2.4 ppm.