

**Seeding Rates:** Producers need to keep in mind that Optimum wheat seeding rate depends on several factors, including planting date, seedbed preparation, and whether the wheat is drilled or broadcast. Our recommendation is that for drilled wheat planting 26 seeds/ft<sup>2</sup> should be sufficient for optimum yields. The lbs/acre of seed will vary considerably with seed size, but with an average seed size of 13,000 seeds/lb, 26 seeds/ft<sup>2</sup> would be close to 90 lbs/acre of seed. If wheat is planted with a drill into a good seedbed and we get good emergence, there is not as much response to seeding rate as one might think. Planting rates would need to be increased for late planting, rough seedbed, and broadcast wheat.

**Broadcast or Drilled Wheat:** Wheat can be successfully grown by planting wheat with a grain drill or by broadcasting wheat and then incorporating. When planting with a grain drill, seed placement can be more easily controlled and seeding rates can be reduced to account for more precise seed placement; however, if time is limited due to incoming weather or labor shortage, broadcasting wheat can get a lot of acres planted in a hurry. For broadcasting wheat and incorporating, seeding rates need to be increased to account for lower emergence rates. When broadcasting, you may need seeding rates of 120–180 lbs/acre. There can be yield differences between drilled and broadcast wheat.

**Planting Date and Variety Maturity :** Variety maturity is very important to consider when deciding on planting dates. Planting the late maturity varieties first and the early maturity varieties later in the planting window may help avoid some freeze damage, if we were to have late spring freeze. Early maturing varieties planted early are much more likely to begin growing earlier in the spring if we have a mild winter and may be more injured by a late freeze.

Planting within recommended planting dates will also help reduce spring freeze damage. Below are the recommended wheat planting dates for Arkansas:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Planting Date</b>
North Arkansas	October 1-November 1
Central Arkansas	October 10-November 10
South Arkansas	October 15-November 20