

NATIONAL WHEAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (2013-2018)

At a glance...

- National wheat breeding program
- \$25.2 million research investment
- Led by the Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF) in collaboration with the Canadian Field Crop Research Alliance (CFCRA), the Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

The “National Wheat Improvement Program” is a five year industry and AAFC collaboration under the Industry-Led Research and Development Stream of the Growing Forward 2 (GF2) AgriInnovation Program.

This national research program focuses on providing Canada's wheat producers with enhanced genetics for high-yielding, disease and insect pest resistant varieties while also tailoring quality profiles to specific end use markets.

Research activities under this cluster engage both AAFC scientists and scientists working in Canadian universities and other public research centers. They draw on the use of advanced diagnostic genetic technologies to accelerate the selection of genotypes with desired traits.

The goal of this project is the development and release of improved wheat varieties desired by Canadian producers and the value chains they serve. Promising varieties that are developed as a result of this research will be commercialized in Canada.

Targeted outcomes include:

- Wheat lines with improved disease and insect pest resistance with a particular emphasis on *Fusarium* resistance
- Lines with higher sustained yields
- Lines with enhanced quality characteristics for specific end uses
- Development of advanced selection tools to improve breeding efficiency and effectiveness

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