



Spring durum wheat

Farina is a spring durum wheat released by Crop & Food Research.

Farina produces a medium strength, strongly coloured durum flour.

Key features

- High yield potential in good conditions
- Improved mildew resistance
- Good general leaf disease resistance
- Good processing grain and flour colour
- Highly sought after by end-users

Characteristics

Farina is a medium maturing, low to medium height spring durum wheat. It has good straw strength, good shedding resistance and is easy to thresh.

Farina produces good yields in medium to heavy soil.

Farina produces good protein, grain screening percentage and test weight values. **Farina** has an average to large seed size with a long, narrow grain.

Farina has excellent resistance to seedling and adult stripe rust, and improved resistance to mildew. It has good resistance to barley yellow dwarf virus, black point and

leaf rust. It has moderate resistance to most other diseases, including speckled leaf blotch, glume blotch and fusarium.

Management

General agronomic practices should be similar to those applied to spring bread wheats.

Sowing

Durum wheat should be ideally sown into a high fertility, well structured, medium-fine seedbed. **Farina** is best sown in Canterbury during September, but can be sown in August or October. The recommended sowing rate is 160-180 kg/ha. Rates should be adjusted for seed size and germination to achieve the desired plant population of 300 plants/m².

Irrigation

Farina should ideally be grown on medium to heavy land where adequate soil moisture will be available throughout the growing season to ensure good sized grain

is produced. **Farina** responds well to irrigation, especially during late grain-fill to ensure acceptable grain size is achieved. Spring cereals have shallower root systems than autumn wheats, so need more frequent irrigations, especially at late growth stages. Highest yields have been recorded under irrigation in hot, dry seasons.

Fertiliser

Timing of fertiliser application is more critical in rapidly growing crops. Generally **Farina** should be drilled with a compound fertiliser. The quality characteristics of **Farina** are best expressed when protein levels are around 12-13%. As **Farina** is capable of producing very high yields in good conditions, adequate nitrogen must be applied during mid-tillering, stem elongation and early grain filling to ensure both anticipated yield and quality are achieved. Seek specialist advice if necessary.

Straw strength

Farina has good straw strength, but a straw shortener at medium rates should be applied between growth stage (GS) 30-31 where expected yields are over 7 t/ha. Timing of plant growth regulators (PGR) is critical in rapidly growing crops.

Fungicides

Preventative mildew control is essential. The first fungicide application should occur no later than six weeks after emergence. Other fungicide applications may be carried out as required. Fusarium is best controlled by a fungicide mix containing Folicur at early flowering (visible anthers).

Harvesting

Farina is susceptible to sprouting and should be harvested promptly to avoid any physical or quality deterioration. To meet the customer's requirements of good colour and a falling number preferably in excess of 300, growers should consider harvesting as the crop approaches 16-18% moisture and drying the grain.

Acknowledgements

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Marketing

Crop & Food Research, as head licensee, has appointed Luisetti Seeds as seed production licensee.



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