

https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/grains/club-wheat-outlook-premium-price-possible-fewer-acres-planted/article_cf51c340-2fca-11ee-ab2f-ab31a44078da.html

Club wheat outlook: Premium price possible, fewer acres planted

By MATTHEW WEAVER Capital Press

Jul 31, 2023



Club wheat plants in the greenhouse at Washington State University in 2021.

Matthew Weaver/Capital Press file

A premium price for club wheat is possible this year, says a Washington industry leader.

"We don't know what the timing will be on that, but it's definitely a good possibility," said Casey Chumrau, executive director of the [Washington Grain Commission](#). "I think the question is, will it be early enough so growers will plant fall club instead of ~~soft~~ white?"

Privacy - Terms

Chat



Casey Chumrau

Chat

Club wheat planted acres were down this year, she said. Chat

"When the soft white and club prices are even, there tends to be less club wheat grown," Chumrau said. "Growers like to have a premium for that crop."

Club wheat prices ranged from \$7.40 to \$8 per bushel on the Portland market, comparable to a price of \$7.30 to \$8 per bushel for soft white wheat.



Club wheat is a naturally-occurring subclass of the soft white wheat primarily raised by Pacific Northwest farmers.

To meet the high standards of Japanese and other Asian millers, the Pacific Northwest wheat industry developed an export class called Western White Wheat. Japan typically uses a blend of 20% club wheat and 80% soft white wheat.

Demand for club is steady, particularly in Japan. Feedback from Japanese buyers is that demand may even tick up a little bit as tourism grows again after the COVID-19 pandemic, Chumrau said.

Price compared to international competitors changes the demand for other countries, Chumrau said. They use a range of 10% to 20% club, depending on the market and the price.

The region's wheat industry anticipates lower yields overall this year compared to last. Outlook for club production is unclear at this point, Chumrau said.

Chat

"A lot of the planted area for club is in regions in Washington where it still is looking promising for production," she said. "The club acres seem to be in some of those areas with better prospects."

More Coverage

Unique wheat variety popular among Asian customers

Matthew Weaver

Field Reporter, Spokane

Chat