



Plate from Flora von Deutschland Österreich und der Schweiz
Courtesy of Robert W. Freckmann Herbarium UW-Stevens Point

Presented by the Town of Middleton



Photo credit: Robert W. Freckmann
Herbarium UW-Stevens Point

In the U.S., wheat is planted on about 50 million acres each year, mostly in upland areas of the West and Midwest. Wheat grain is used to make flour, livestock feed, beer, and it is occasionally used as a forage crop.

Winter wheat (*Triticum spp*)

Wheat originated in the Middle East more than 8,000 years ago; the cultivation of wheat began to spread into Europe beginning in the Bronze age. Globally, wheat, rice, and corn are the three most important cereal crops used by humans. Winter wheat, the type of wheat that can be planted in late fall for harvest in late summer the following year, is the most common wheat grown in temperate regions of the U.S. There are three distinct classes of winter wheat – hard red, soft red, and hard white – that are based on milling properties and area of adaptation.

Narrative credit: James Coors, Professor UW-Madison