

## **Environmental Benefits from Triticale**

Created by pollinating wheat with cereal rye, triticale combines the advantages of both crops to produce the world's most productive cereal grain. In addition to providing substantial benefits as a forage and grain crop, triticale varieties provide important environmental benefits.

- University research has shown triticale to be a superior "trap crop" for preventing the movement of nitrogen into surface and ground water. The use of triticale as a winter crop for managing both phosphorous and nitrogen from manure and previous crops offers tremendous environmental benefits along with high-quality forage and grain.
- Studies by the international research organization, CIMMYT, have shown that triticale is significantly more efficient than wheat in using soil nitrogen, allowing a reduction in inputs while still producing high yields.
- In Europe and the humid coastal areas of the U.S., triticale's disease resistance allows it to be grown without the fungicides commonly applied to wheat in those areas.
- The vigorous growth of triticale suppresses weeds and reduces the need for herbicides.
- University and USDA research has shown triticale to reduce nematode infestations, increasing yields and reducing the need for nematocides for subsequent crops.
- Research has shown triticale to have a much more extensive root system than other cereal grains such as barley and rye. The extensive root system of triticale contributes to its drought tolerance and nutrient efficiency, and improves soil structure and productivity.
- Its tolerance to environmental stress, diseases, and other pests, and its efficient use of nitrogen and other inputs, make triticale an ideal choice for low-input production. At a time when environmental objectives and constraints are becoming increasingly important for agricultural producers, triticale offers an ideal combination of economic performance and environmental benefits.