

# Perennial grains soon to be in our fields and on our plates - a first in Canada!

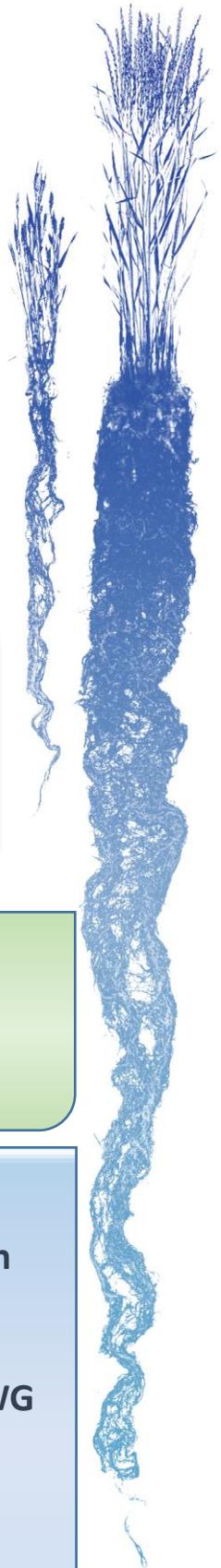
- Crop with promise - soil, environmental and ecological benefits of a perennial, but yielding a grain that can be milled for a specialty grain market
- Dr. Doug Cattani leads the ONLY intermediate wheatgrass (*Thinopyrum intermedium* – *Kernza*, IWG) breeding program for grain production in Canada.
- Part of the global perennial grain initiative initiated by the Kansas-based The Land Institute

## IWG: Did You Know?

- Root length = up to 4m
- Seed yield up to 1400 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>
- Stand duration = 5-6 years
- Protein ranges 19 to 21%

## Kernza IWG vs Annual Wheats

- 2 x omega-3 fatty acids
- 10 x folate
- 50% higher protein due to smaller seed size



## Market

- Speciality grain: market environmental sustainability and ecosystem service attributes – climate beneficial food
- Products with select availability – General Mills special edition cereal, pasta

2011

IWG breeding program launched at UM selecting Prairie-hardy IWG germplasm for consistent performance and high quality grain protein and yield

2019

3 Manitoba Producers seed small acreages of advanced IWG for grain, agronomics

2020

First breeder plots with most advanced line

2027

Anticipated release of first Canadian IWG commercial cultivar

Photo: The Land Institute  
[www.landinstitute.org](http://www.landinstitute.org)

