



Doug Cattani leads the ONLY IWG (*Thinopyrum intermedium*, Kernza®) breeding program for grain production in Canada

Intermediate wheatgrass (IWG) provides the soil ecological benefits of a perennial while yielding grain for milling like an annual crop



Part of the global perennial grain initiative initiated by the Kansas-based The Land Institute

PERENNIAL GRAINS

Soon to be in our fields and on our plates - a first in Canada.

TIMELINE TO COMMERCIAL CULTIVAR

2011

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

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

MARKET

Specialty grain with environmental attributes

Kernza® grain has been used to make flour, popped grain, cereal, crackers and even beer!



KERNZA®

ANNUAL WHEAT



GROUND LEVEL

KERNZA® FAST FACTS

~4m

ROOT LENGTH

~1,000 kg/ha

SEED YIELD

5-6 YRS

STAND DURATION

9-21%

PROTEIN CONTENT

UP TO...

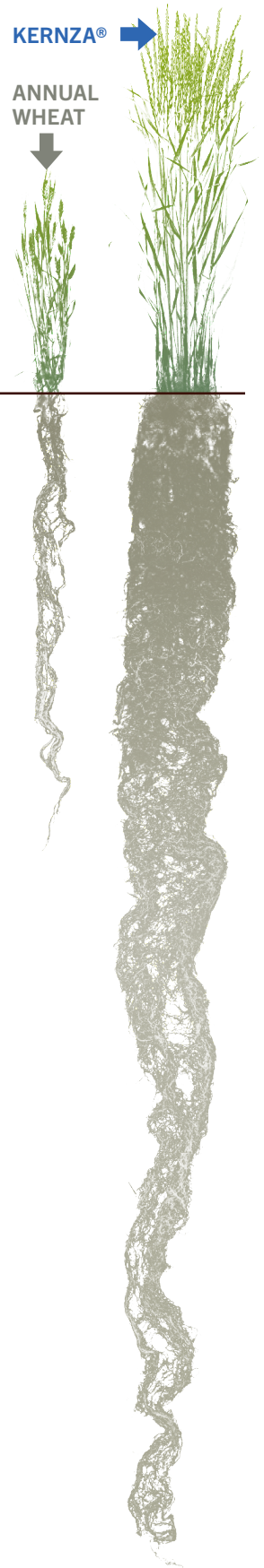
2x

OMEGA-3 FATTY ACIDS

10x

FOLATE

Compared with annual wheats



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RESEARCH LEAD: Doug Cattani, plant scientist, University of Manitoba

DIG DEEPER! UM News "[Innovative crop researcher captures sustainability award](#)"

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