

Crop life cycle

Throughout the growing season, the plant both changes in form (development) and accumulates dry matter (growth).

Key facts

- Development is governed by temperature and daylength.
- The rate at which wheat passes through its life cycle may only be managed through choice of sowing date and of variety.

The key phases

At successive growth stages crop processes 'switch' on or off. Key stages are crop emergence (GS10), the start of stem extension (GS31), *flowering* (GS61) and the end of grain filling (GS85). These key stages separate the important phases.

Crop development can be divided into three phases: Foundation, Construction and Production

