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Preliminary assessment of overwintering of crops¹ in 2025

 **2.9%**

increase in the sown area of winter cereals compared to the 2024 sown area

The field survey shows that winter crops overwintered similarly to last year, with virtually no losses. The course of agrometeorological conditions during the winter was generally favorable for overwintering plants, and the decreases in air temperature recorded in February (locally below -20°C at the ground) did not threaten the winter crops.

In most voivodeships, there were no or little losses in the area of sown winter crops. The causes of minor damage to winter crops were mainly drying winds and damage caused by forest animals.

At the beginning of March, the vegetation of winter plants and permanent grasslands started. Throughout the month, spring fieldwork was carried out. In many regions of the country, the sowing of spring cereals began, and in some areas, the sowing of field vegetables was also initiated. However, the persistent lack of precipitation during the month contributed to a decline in soil moisture levels. In the second decade of March, a drop in air temperature caused slight frost damage in some areas, particularly affecting young shoots and flower buds of cherry trees and other stone fruit species. Cold days and night frosts in the first decade of April hindered plant emergence and slowed the pace of growth. In many parts of the country, insufficient rainfall was observed, leading to significant soil drying.

A final assessment of winter losses, as well as spring losses, and an assessment of the state of sowing of agricultural and horticultural crops will be carried out in the second half of May this year.

Assessment of the condition of winter crops sown in the fall of 2024, for harvest in 2025

An assessment carried out in November by Statistics Poland field appraisers shows that winter cereals for the 2025 harvest have been sown about 4.6 million hectares, i.e. approximately 2.9% more than last year, of which:

- winter wheat was sown more than 2.2 million hectares,
- rye about 0.7 million hectares,
- winter triticale more than 1.2 million hectares,
- winter barley more than 0.4 million hectares,
- winter cereal mixtures about 0.1 million hectares.

The area sown to winter rape and turnip rape is estimated at about 1.0 million hectares.

As a result of insufficient rainfall, excessive drying of the topsoil is being observed in many regions of the country

The area of winter cereals sown in the fall of 2024 for the 2025 harvest was about 4.6 million hectares

¹ The information contains the results of a preliminary assessment of overwintering of winter crops and orchard plants carried out by Statistics Poland provincial appraisers. The assessment was made on the basis of a monolithic survey conducted in mid-March, as well as an inspection of fields, meadows and orchards conducted at the end of March, and observations of agrometeorological conditions and their impact on the condition of agricultural and horticultural crops.

About 86% of the area of winter wheat, more than 94% of the area of rye, about 91% of the area of winter barley, nearly 89% of the area of winter triticale, nearly 88% of the area of winter cereal mixtures and about 93% of the area of winter rape and turnip rape were planted at optimal agrotechnical dates.

The condition of winter cereals sowings, i.e. wheat and rye, was assessed at a level slightly higher than last year's assessment, while barley, triticale and cereal mixtures sowings were assessed at the level of the previous year (Table 1.). Plantations of winter rape and turnip rape, on average in the country, were assessed at 4.0 qualification degrees, i.e. at the level of last year's assessment.

Table 1. Assessment of the status of winter crops in November 2024

Specification	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	in qualifying grades ^{a)}							
Wheat	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0
Rye	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.1
Barley	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.0
Triticale	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0
Cereal mixtures	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9
Rape and turnip rape	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0

a) A grade of „5” indicates very good condition, „4” – good, „3” – sufficient, „2” – poor, „1” – bad, disaster.

The course of agrometeorological conditions during the winter of 2024/2025

The air temperature in November supported vegetation and created good conditions for the emergence, growth and development of late sown winter crops. It also enabled autumn field work and harvesting of root and fodder crops. Winter crops sown at optimum agrotechnical dates in November were tillering.

The weather conditions in winter generally did not pose a direct threat to plants. The high air temperature in December and January, which was high for this time of year and rose above 10°C at times, caused disruptions in the winter dormancy of winter crops. Periodic daily fluctuations in air temperature, causing thawing and refreezing of the topsoil, could locally weaken the root system of plants. The large drops in air temperature at the ground surface recorded in the second and third decade of February, reaching in places even -20°C and below, were short-lived and did not cause excessive cooling of the soil at the depth of the bushy node. As a result of the daily fluctuations in air temperature recorded at the end of the month, the processes of freezing and thawing of the topsoil layer were repeated, which could locally weaken the root system of plants.

Warm and sunny weather in the first decade of March this year was conducive to the start of vegetation of winter plants and permanent grasslands. Agrometeorological conditions in March allowed for spring field work. Sowing of oats, spring wheat and spring barley began in a large area of the country. However, the persistent lack of rainfall during the month contributed to a decrease in the level of soil moisture.

The course of weather conditions during the winter was generally favorable for overwintering plants

In April, the country's agrometeorological conditions were varied. Cool days and night frosts in the first decade of April inhibited the emergence of spring cereals and slowed down the pace of their growth. In many regions of the country, significant rainfall deficiencies were observed, causing soil drying.

Table 2. Air temperature and precipitation from autumn 2024 to spring 2025

Specification	National average air temperature		National average rainfall totals	
	°C	deviation from the norm ^{a)}	mm	% norm ^{a)}
AUTUMN ^{b)} 2024				
September	16.9	3.2	67.9	118.0
October	10.1	1.3	33.2	71.0
November	3.8	-0.2	31.8	80.1
WINTER ^{b)} 2024/2025				
December	2.5	2.3	27.5	70.6
January	2.0	3.2	33.6	92.5
February	-0.5	-0.1	13.5	42.7
SPRING ^{b)} 2025				
March	6.0	2.8	25.2	66.6

a) From 2021 IMiGW adopts as the average norm from years 1991-2020.

b) Monthly averages / Statistics Poland calculations based on IMiGW data/.

Preliminary assessment of overwintering of winter cereals and rape and turnip rape

Monolithic and field surveys conducted by voivodeships appraisers in late February and the first half of March this year show that winter crops across the country overwintered similarly to last year, with virtually no losses, and their condition assessed in early spring was good.

Locally, winter losses (plant damage) were reported in the following voivodeships due to:

- drying winds in the lubelskie, łódzkie i podkarpackie voivodeships;
- occurrence of stagnant water in terrain depressions causing plants to get wet in the warmińsko-mazurskie voivodeship;
- air temperature fluctuations in the lubuskie voivodeship;
- other causes (e.g. forest animals) in the lubelskie and warmińsko-mazurskie voivodeships.

According to an assessment by voivodeships appraisers of the Statistics Poland, only about 0.1% of the area sown of winter cereals and about 0.2% of the area of winter rape and turnip rape were qualified for plowing in the country.

Only about 1.3 thousand hectares of winter cereal and about 1.6 thousand hectares of rape and turnip rape sown in autumn 2024 were qualified for plowing

In the surveyed monolithic and field samples, the proportion of live plants and germinating seeds was for the current year:

- winter wheat – more than 94%,
- rye – more than to 96%,
- winter barley – about 94%,
- winter triticale – about 96%,
- winter rape and turnip rape – about 92%.

Moreover between 3% and 5% of doubtful plants (in which the degree of overwintering and final condition could not be determined) were found in the surveyed monolithic samples. The highest number of doubtful plants was recorded in winter rape and turnip rape plantations, and the least in rye plantations.

Evaluation of wintering of trees, fruit bushes and berry plantations and the condition of horticultural crops

The winter dormancy period in the 2024/25 season was favorable for maintaining good condition of fruit trees in orchards. At the same time, the mild course of winter contributed to an increased incidence of powdery mildew, scab, and plant pests, which may result in the need for intensive chemical protection of plantations. In most regions of the country, the lack of snow cover, which normally replenishing groundwater in spring, had a negative impact on the vigor of orchard crops at the beginning of the growing season. In the second decade of March, a drop in air temperature caused localized frost damage, particularly affecting young shoots and flower buds of cherry trees and other stone fruit species. On plantations that suffered hail damage in the previous year, a reduction in the number of flower buds was observed. Trees began flowering at dates close to the long-term average. A negative factor affecting tree condition during this time was the lack of rainfall, which led to significant soil drying.

Weather conditions during the winter dormancy period were also favorable for fruit bushes and berry plantations. As a result, no frost damage was recorded in these crops, and vegetation began in the first half of March, again, close to the long-term average. Localized damage to bushes (including blackcurrants) and strawberries occurred as a result of frosts, primarily during the second decade of March. Similar to fruit trees, the low groundwater levels caused by a shortage of rainfall negatively impacted the development of bushes and berry plantations.

The progress of fieldwork and the sowing of field vegetables at the end of March and the beginning of April 2025 varied across regions. The main factors contributing to delays were insufficient soil warming and moisture levels. The lack of adequate rainfall also caused a slowdown and weakening of vegetable emergence. On many plantations, protective coverings are being used to prevent moisture loss and to improve thermal conditions for germinating plants. While awaiting more favorable weather conditions, producers are preparing seedlings to be transplanted into the field at a later stage.

In case of quoting Statistics Poland data, please provide information: “Source of data: Statistics Poland”, and in case of publishing calculations made on data published by Statistics Poland, please include the following disclaimer: “Own study based on figures from Statistics Poland”.

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Data available in databases

[BDL: Sown area](#)

Terms used in official statistics

[BDL: Agricultural crops](#)