

# Rabi crop

**Rabi crops** or the **rabi harvest**, also known as **winter crops**, are agricultural crops that are sown in winter and harvested in the spring in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.<sup>[1]</sup> Complementary to the rabi crop is the kharif crop, which is grown after the rabi and zaid crops are harvested one after another respectively.

The word rabi was borrowed from Persian: ربيع, romanized: *rabi*, lit. 'spring'.

## Etymology

The words *kharif* and *rabi* have their origins in Arabic. These came to be used in India with the ascent of the Mughal empire in the Indian subcontinent and have been widely used ever since. The term is derived from the Arabic word for "spring", which is used in the Indian subcontinent, where it is the spring harvest (also known as the "winter crop").

## Rabi season in India

Rabi crops are sown around mid-November, preferably after the monsoon rains are over, and harvesting begins in April / May. The crops are grown either with rainwater that has percolated into the ground or using irrigation. Good rain in winter spoils rabi crops but is good for kharif crops.

The major rabi crop in India is wheat, followed by barley, mustard, sesame and peas. Peas are harvested early, as they are ready early: Indian markets are flooded with green peas from January to March, peaking in February.

Many crops are cultivated in both kharif and rabi seasons. The crops produced in India are seasonal and highly dependent on these two monsoons.<sup>[2]</sup> The table below contains a list of differences between the three cropping seasons in India.

DIFFERENCES	Rabi	Kharif	Zaid
SOWN (Between)	October to December	July (Onset of Monsoon) to August	March to May
HARVEST	April to June	September to October	Summer Months
WATER SUPPLY	Rains due to Western Temperate Cyclones	Monsoon Rains	Irrigation
CROPS	Wheat, barley, peas, gram and mustard. (5 Crops)	Paddy, maize, jowar, bajra, tur (arhar), moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut and soyabean. (11 Crops)	Watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, vegetables, fodder crops; and Sugarcane (needs a year to grow).
PLACES	Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh (6 Places)	Rice - Assam; West Bengal; coastal regions of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala; Maharashtra (Konkan coast), Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (12 States)	Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu.

The Indian government also offers Minimum Support Price for these crops, so that the farmers can benefit from the harvest.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Common rabi crops

### Cereals

- barley
- oat (*Avena sativa*)



Wheat



Barley

- Wheat

## Fruits

List as follows. These are rabi harvests rather than crops as that term is usually applied to annuals and not perennials.<sup>[4]</sup>

- banana
- ber
- date
- grape
- grape fruit
- guava
- kinnow
- lemon
- lime
- mandarin orange
- mangoes
- mulberries
- orange

## Legumes / lentils (dal)

- chickpea<sup>[5]</sup>
- kulthi (horse gram)<sup>[5]</sup>
- lobhia<sup>[5]</sup>
- masoor<sup>[5]</sup>
- pigeon pea

## Seed plants

- alfalfa (also known as lucerne, *Medicago sativa*)
- coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*, L)
- cumin (*Cuminum cyminum*, L)
- fenugreek (*Trigonella foenumgraecum*, L)
- linseed
- mustard (*Brassica juncea* L.)
- isabgol (*Plantago ovata*)
- sunflower
- Bengal gram
- red gram
- black pepper

## Vegetables

- bean
- beetroot (chukundar)
- brinjal (baingan)
- broccoli (hari gobhi)
- cabbage (patta gobhi)
- capsicum (shimla mirch) <sup>[6]</sup>
- carrot (gajar)
- cauliflowers (gobhi)
- chickpea (also known as gram, *Cicer arietinum*) (chana)
- fenugreek (methi)
- garlic (lehsun)
- lady finger (bhindi)
- lettuce (salad gobhi)
- pea (matar)
- onion (*Allium cepa*, L.) (pyaj)
- potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) (urulai kizhangu) (aloo)
- radish (mooli)

- spinach (palak)
- sweet potato (shakarkand)
- tomato (*Solanum lycopersiucum*, L) (tamatar)
- turnip (shalgam)

## Others

- tobacco<sup>[4]</sup>

## See also

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- Zaid crops, a minor cropping season (summer) in the Indian Subcontinent
- Kharif crop, a major cropping season based on the Arriving Monsoon in the Indian Subcontinent
- Cash crop
- Winter wheat, a crop grown in winter in colder climates

## References

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- Sowing time of Rabi & Kharif crop | agropedia (<http://agropedia.iitk.ac.in/content/sowing-time-rabi-kharif-crop>) Archived (<http://web.archive.org/web/20130105051529/http://agropedia.iitk.ac.in/content/sowing-time-rabi-kharif-crop>) 2013-01-05 at the Wayback Machine
- Revised MSP notification (<https://desagri.gov.in/notification-type/rabi/>), Released by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics under the Ministry of Agriculture
- Rabi products list (<http://agrinfobank.com.pk/rabi-crops-vegetables-fruits-and-pulses/>), released by Agrinfobank, Pakistan
- Rabi crop planting rises 10% in a week (<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/wheat-sowing-up-7-rice-cereals-acreage-down-so-far/articleshow/56022773.cms>), 2016.
- Rabi crops in Haryana ([http://haryanaseeds.gov.in/products\\_vegetables\\_rabi.html](http://haryanaseeds.gov.in/products_vegetables_rabi.html)), Haryana Seeds Development Corporation.

## External links

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- India: 2003/04 Rabi Crop Assessment (<https://web.archive.org/web/20070610052510/http://www.fas.usda.gov/pecad2/highlights/2004/04/India2004Assess/index.htm>), US Department of Agriculture
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