

About Wheat Straw ...

Wheat - a grass that is cultivated throughout the world.

Second or third in worldwide production after corn (maize), depending on the year.

Two major forms of wheat: winter wheat and summer wheat.

Leading source of vegetable protein in human food [14].

The wheat straw cell wall is a natural composite composed of cellulose microfibrils in an amorphous matrix of hemicellulose and lignin [9, p.17]

The cellulose microfibrillar crystals are about 20nm in diameter and 150-200nm in length [10]

Wheat straw is one of the most abundant renewable resources. [11]

About 1.9 x 10⁹ tons of wheat straw were annually produced world-wide, along with 6.2 x 10⁸ tons of wheat production [11].

Annual Global Production of wheat lands

690 Tg

[32]

Annual Global Production of wheat

223 Tha

[32]

Uses of Wheat Straw

| Use | Comment | Link |
|--|--|--------|
| Animal bedding | Absorbs about 300% of its weight in moisture | [link] |
| soil fertilizer replacement (high N): | \$0.01-\$0.02/lb | |
| fuel liquid/bioethanol methane production | | |
| erosion control | | |
| livestock bedding | | |
| mushroom compost substrate | | |
| activated carbon | for filtration | |
| animal feed | | |
| solid core interior (home) door fillers | | |
| low cost building panels walls (load/non-bearing), floors and ceilings (Romania) | | |
| biosorbent/metal ion removal (e.g., Cr)-wastewater | | |
| biofiller | | |
| fuel log (replacing coal) | | |

Estimate of crop residues in Ontario (OMAFRA, 2006)

| Crop | Area (000) acres | Estimated annual production (AP) (000) tons | Estimated Crop Residues (CR) (000) tons | Estimated heat value from crop (10 ⁶ MJ) | Source |
|-------|------------------|---|---|---|------------|
| Wheat | 1231 | 1674 @136c | 753 @45% of AP | 13560 | [8, p. 41] |

| Item | Density | Units | Energy Density | Units | Source |
|---|---------|------------------------|----------------|-------|--------|
| bulk density of loose wheat straw | | 18 kg/m ³ | | | [3] |
| | | 40 kg/m ³ | | | [34] |
| baled biomass, large round bales, hard core | 190-240 | kg/m ³ | 3.4-4.5 | | [3] |
| | | 120 kg/m ³ | | | [34] |
| Ground biomass (i.e., hammermill) | | 200 kg/m ³ | | 3.6 | [3] |
| briquettes | | 350 kg/m ³ | | 6.4 | [3] |
| cubes | | 400 kg/m ³ | | 7.3 | [3] |
| pucks | 480-640 | kg/m ³ | 8.6-12.0 | | [3] |
| pellets | 550-700 | kg/m ³ | 9.8-14.0 | | [3] |
| torrefied pellets | | 800 kg/m ³ | | 15 | [3] |
| bio-oil | | 1200 kg/m ³ | | 20 | [3] |

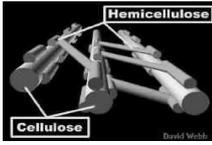
| Physical Content of Wheat | Mass Percent | Units | Source |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------|-------------|
| Internodes | 68.5 % | | [4, p. 2-3] |
| Leaves-sheaths | 20.3 % | | [4, p. 2-3] |
| Leaves-blades | 5.5 % | | [4, p. 2-3] |
| Nodes and Fines | 4.2 % | | [4, p. 2-3] |
| Grain and Debris | 1.5 % | | [4, p. 2-3] |

| Chemical composition of wheat straw | | | Source | Internode [%] | Node [%] | Leaf [%] | Source | Comments |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|---|---------------|----------|----------|-------------|---|
| Cellulose | 35-45 | % | [33, p. 1904] | | | | | (C ₆ H ₁₀ O ₅)n a long chain polysaccharide carbohydrate |
| holocellulose | 58.5-72.9 | % | [4, p. 2-1] | | | | | |
| alpha-cellulose | 33-40 | % | [4, p. 2-1] | | | | | |
| hemicellulose | 25-32 | % | [4, p. 2-1] | | | | | Rich in 5-carbon sugars (pentoses.) |
| lignin | 16-23 | % | [4, p. 2-1] | | 23.22 | 17.48 | [4, p. 2-3] | Total lignin=Klason lignin + soluble lignin. One of the most organic compounds on earth after cellulose and chitin, lignin yields more energy when burned than cellulose [31] |
| ash | 4-10 | % | [4, p. 2-1] | | | 56.95 | [4, p. 2-3] | |
| lipids | 1-2 | % | [33, p. 1904]. Of lipids: fatty acids 25%, free fatty alcohols (ca. 20%), high molecular weight esters of long-chain fatty acids esterified to long-chain fatty alcohols. | | | | | Lipids can be used to produce high value waxes, used in cosmetics and personal care products. Lipids can be extracted with acetone in a Soxhlet apparatus after 8h. |
| silica and silicates | 2.0-5.5 | % | [4, p. 2-1] | | 9.93 | 12.06 | [4, p. 2-3] | |
| EtOH-Benzene extr. | 2.9-5.8 | % | [4, p. 2-1] | | | | | |
| Fibers | 38-42 | % | [4, p. 2-1] | | | | | Consist of the celluloses |
| Fiber length (mm) | | | | 1.73 | 0.82 | | [4, p. 2-3] | |

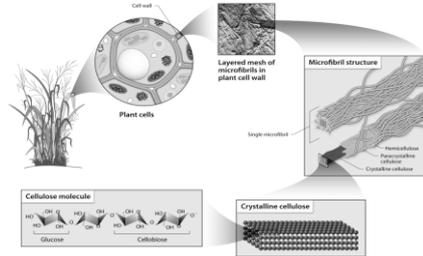
| Item | Internode [%] | Node [%] | Leaf [%] | Source | Comments |
|---|---------------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Straw Fractions - Hand Harvested Madsen (%) | 48 | 6 | 46 | [4, p. 2-5] | |
| Straw Fractions - Baled Madsen, estimated (%) | 80 | 11 | 9 | [4, p. 2-5] | |

| Item | Internode | Node | Leaf | Whole | Source | Comments |
|-----------|-----------|------|------|-------|--------|-------------|
| Mass (%) | | 49 | 6 | 45 | | [4, p. 2-5] |
| NAFL (mm) | | 0.61 | 0.28 | 0.35 | 0.48 | [4, p. 2-5] |
| WAFI (mm) | | 1.2 | 0.65 | 0.79 | 1.04 | [4, p. 2-5] |
| Fines (%) | | 51.3 | 51.4 | 49 | 51.3 | [4, p. 2-5] |

NAFL=Numerical
Average Fiber Length
WAFI=Weighted
Average Fiber Length



Source: http://www.biologie.uni-hamburg.de/b-online/library/webb/BOT311/PlantCellWalls00/CellWallHemiLab_small.jpg



Source: <http://www.intechopen.com/source/html/44414/media/image1.png>

| Item | Gross Amount | Units | Source | Detection Limit (ppm) | Internode (ppm) | Node (ppm) | Leaf (ppm) | Source | Comments |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|--------|---------------------------|
| Chemical Components | | | | | | | | | |
| Aluminum (Al) | | | | 20 | <20-20 | <20-20 | 40-100 | [1] | |
| Boron (B) | | | | 20 | <20 | <20 | <20-30 | [1] | |
| Barium (Ba) | | | | 1 | 28-83 | 39-97 | 47-86 | [1] | |
| Calcium (Ca) | | | | 10 | 1130-3300 | 2200-3470 | 5950-8230 | [1] | |
| Chromium(Cr) | | | | 1 | <1 | <1 | <1-3 | [1] | |
| Copper (Cu) | | | | 2 | 3-5 | 22-68 | 4-6 | [1] | |
| Iron (Fe) | | | | 5 | 21-87 | 22-68 | 88-175 | [1] | |
| Potassium (K) | | | | 1000 | 13000-34000 | 20000-65000 | 920-1710 | [1] | K= primary micronutrient. |
| Magnesium (Mg) | | | | 10 | 500-2970 | 930-2770 | 2000-2790 | [1] | |
| Manganese (Mn) | | | | 0.5 | 10.4-25.1 | 9.3-27.2 | 34.9-128 | [1] | |
| Molybdenum (Mo) | | | | 1 | <1-2 | 1-2 | <1-1 | [1] | |
| Sodium (Na) | | | | 50 | 60-260 | 20-1570 | 50-120 | [1] | |
| Phosphorus (P) | | | | 20 | 330-1030 | 350-1020 | 920-1710 | [1] | P= primary micronutrient. |
| Tin (Sn) | | | | 5 | <5-6 | <5-7 | <5-7 | [1] | |
| Strontium (Sr) | | | | 0.5 | 5.8-15.9 | 9.6-18.8 | 22.1-37.8 | [1] | |
| Zinc (Zn) | | | | 1 | 7-24 | 12-25 | 15-24 | [1] | |

| Proximate Analysis (Wheat Straw) | | | | | | Comments |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----------|-------|----|--------------|
| Volatiles | 69 | m% | [2, p.6] | 75.27 | m% | [5, p. 1561] |
| Fixed Carbon | 23 | m% | [2, p.6] | 17.71 | m% | [5, p. 1561] |
| Ash | 8 | m% | [2, p.6] | 7.02 | m% | [5, p. 1561] |

Biosolid ash from combustion be reduced by adding lime (CaO) [18, p. 12].
[Miscanthus, switchgrass] delayed harvest in spring can reduce ash content, largely by reducing potassium K [19, p.7]

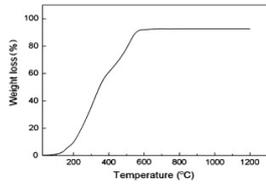
| Ultimate Analysis (dry biomass) | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|--------|----------|-----------|----------|--|
| Qty | Unit | Source | Qty | Source | Comments | |
| C | 45.7 | m% | [2, p.7] | | | |
| H | 5.7 | m% | [2, p.7] | | | |
| O | 43.3 | m% | [2, p.7] | | | |
| N | 0.5 | m% | [2, p.7] | | | Nitrous oxides (NOx) emissions will be proportional to the N2 content. N= primary micronutrient. |
| S | 0.3 | m% | [2, p.7] | | | S=secondary micronutrient. |
| Cl | 0.7 | m% | [2, p.7] | 0.1%-0.6% | [6] | Most chlorine released as HCl in the gas phase [2, p.9]. Higher risk of dioxin formation [6]. 90% of Cl can be removed by complete immersion in water in < 2 min, [27, p. 41]. K, Na, Cl can be "...removed... by spraying water over the top of a 30 cm |
| K | | | | 0.7%-0.8% | [6] | |

| Lower Heat Value (LHV) | | | |
|------------------------|-------|--------|-----------|
| Qty | Unit | Source | |
| Wheat Straw (dry) | 7680 | BTU/lb | [13, p.5] |
| Wheat Straw (dry) | 17.86 | MJ/kg | [13, p.5] |
| Wheat Straw (20% m.c.) | 5908 | BTU/lb | [13, p.5] |
| Wheat Straw (20% m.c.) | 13.74 | MJ/kg | [13, p.5] |

| High Heat Value (HHV, dry biomass) | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Source | Source | Source | Source |
| Experimental | 17100 | kJ/kg | [2, p.8] |
| | 19100 | kJ/kg | [20, p. 35] |

| Ash Content (dry biomass) | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------|---|----------|-------|----------|--|
| K2O | 2.2 | % | [2, p.9] | 25.6 | wt-%-ash | [5, p. 1561] |
| CaO | 0.3 | % | [2, p.9] | 6.14 | wt-%-ash | [5, p. 1561] |
| SiO2 | 3.6 | % | [2, p.9] | 55.32 | wt-%-ash | [5, p. 1561] |
| Cl | 0.7 | % | [2, p.9] | | | the chlorine content in agrobiomass like straws is lower than in dry years." |
| P2O5 | 0.2 | % | [2, p.9] | | 2.3 | wt-%-ash |
| Fe2O3 | <0.1 | % | [2, p.9] | | 0.5 | wt-%-ash |
| MgO | 0.1 | % | [2, p.9] | 1.06 | wt-%-ash | [5, p. 1561] |
| Na2O | | | | 1.71 | wt-%-ash | [5, p. 1561] |
| Al2O3 | | | | 1.71 | wt-%-ash | [5, p. 1561] |
| Other | | | | 1.71 | wt-%-ash | [5, p. 1561] |

| Omtec WSBF Grade | Size (Mesh/um) | Nominal Avg Length | OMTEC Application |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| WSBF-TH (chopped straw) | | 5+ mm | |
| WSBF-15 (large fibers,#2) | >16 mesh | 3.5 mm | Fuel Pucks |
| WSBF-25 (medium fibers,#1) | 16 – 35 mesh | 2 mm | Automotive Plastic |
| WSBF-35 (fine fibers,#3) | < 35 mesh | 0.75 mm | Automotive Plastic |
| WSBF-45 (dust) | < 0.1 mm | | Fuel Pucks |



Weight loss-temperature curve of wheat straw [29]

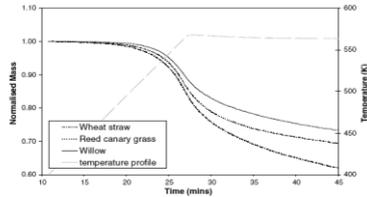


Fig. 2. Mass loss of wheat straw, reed canary grass and willow during torrefaction at 563 K.

Mass loss of wheat straw, reed canary grass, and willow during torrefaction at 563K (290 C) [30, p. 847]

Pyrolysis Stages

| Temperature | Process (overlap) | Major Products | Heat | Source |
|-------------|--|---|------|--------------|
| < 200C | Drying | H ₂ O | IN | [12, p. 11] |
| 230C-250C | Depolymerization | Acetic acid, Methanol, CO ₂ , CO | IN | [12, p. 11] |
| 250C-280C | Torrefaction | Extractives, CO ₂ , CO | IN | [12, p. 11] |
| 200C - 350C | decomposition of hemicellulose starts at temperatures above 473 K (200C) and full devolatilisation will occur by 623 K (350C) with the major products being H ₂ O, CO ₂ , CO, and char, as well as traces or low molecular weight organics | | | [30, p. 847] |
| 280C-500C | Devolatilization | Organics, Tars, CO ₂ , CO | OUT | [12, p. 11] |
| <500C | 25%-75% of chlorine released | | | [27, p.40] |
| 500C-700C | Dissociation/Carbonization | CO, H ₂ | IN | [12, p. 11] |
| 650-750C | Normal operation of catalytic converter | | | |
| >700C | Gasification | H ₂ , CO | IN | [12, p. 11] |
| >700C | Remaining chlorine released | | | [27, p.40] |
| 700C-900C | PAHs formed, total yield increasing with temperature and residence time in the furnace. At higher temperatures, they are thermally decomposed. | | | [6, p. 561] |

| 5 Phases of Combustion [6] | Comments | Source |
|------------------------------|--|--------|
| Initial smouldering (I) | Methoxyphenols from the lignin of the fuels released at high concentrations. | [6] |
| Early flaming (II) | | |
| Late flaming (III) | | |
| After-flame smouldering (IV) | released high concentrations of compounds that are hazardous to health and the environment | [6] |
| Final glowing (V) | | |

Concentrations of compounds in smoke from Wheat Straw pellets during the different combustion stages:

| No. of analyses | 5 | | | | 6 | | | | 6 | | | | Source | Notes | Link |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|--------|---|------|
| | CAS | Carcinogenic? | Initial smouldering (I) | Early flaming (II) | Late flaming (III) | After-flame smouldering (IV) | Final glowing (V) | | | | | | | | |
| Carbon dioxide | | | 6100 | 1700 | 120000 | 20000 | 110000 | 20000 | 28000 | 4000 | 21000 | 2000 | [6] | | |
| Carbon monoxide | | | 630 | 300 | 220 | 140 | 270 | 110 | 3100 | 400 | 2200 | 400 | [6] | | |
| Methane | | | 11 | 5 | 5.5 | 3.2 | 6.5 | 2.4 | 750 | 470 | 13 | 9 | [6] | colorless, odorless; Low concentrations are not harmful. | link |
| Ethane | | | 7.5 | 3.8 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 1.8 | 0.6 | 300 | 190 | 0.4 | 0.5 | [6] | May cause central nervous system depression. Causes adverse cardiovascular effects. | link |
| Ethene (ethylene) | 74-85-1 | | 7.5 | 3.4 | 13 | 8 | 5.5 | 1.9 | 100 | 70 | 0.4 | 0.4 | [6] | Colorless. Not carcinogenic. | |

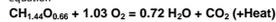
CH₃*

CO



Schematic picture of soot formation Source: H. Bockhorn, Soot Formation in Combustion (vol. 59 in Series in Chemical Physics, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1994.)

Biomass combustion equation



Note: CH_{1.44}O_{0.66} is the approximate chemical equation for the combustible portion of biomass

Sintered or fused deposits due to alkalis: Volatile alkali (0.34 kJ/GJ)sufficiently lower the fusion temperature of the ash [16]

Minimum and maximum cost of biomass supply (20 to 100km distance) including granulation (pelleting):

| Operations | Low | | High | | Source |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| | Cost (\$/t) | Energy (GJ/t) | Cost (\$/t) | Energy (GJ/t) | |
| Collection | 19.69 | 0.319 | 23.72 | 0.339 | [7, p.27] |
| Transport | 6.06 | 0.271 | 23.72 | 0.339 | [7, p.27] |
| Granulation (pellet) | 20.53 | 0.471 | 30.85 | 0.821 | [7, p.27] |
| Granulation (grind) | 5.65 | 0.096 | 5.65 | 0.096 | [7, p.27] |
| Total | 46.28 | 1.006 | 78.29 | 1.509 | [7, p.27] |

Calculations of the net yield:

| Crop | Yield grain (bu/ac) | Dry grain (t/ha) | Straw/grain ratio | Gross yield (t/ha) | Max fraction removed for soil fertility k1 | Fraction machine can remove k2 | Estimate of losses from harvest to biorefinery | Net yield (t/ha) | Source |
|-------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------|-----------|
| Wheat Straw | 60 | 3.5 | 1.3 | 4.6 | 0.5 | 0.75 | 0.2 | 1.822 | [7, p. 9] |

Sources:

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