

Early spring planting in the northern parts of Sweden

Spring planting is beginning unusually early this year. Last year, a record sized autumn sowing was established under good conditions and the weather conditions have continued to be favorable during early spring this year. Spring planting is already in full swing in large parts of the country – not least between Kumla and Sundsvall. Further north, it is mainly the farms closest to the coast that are in the process of tillage and spring sowing.

In comparison to the same time period in recent years, the conditions look better than usual. However, the growth period is long and how much of the potential that remains when it is time to harvest is largely dependent on the weather during the coming months.

“A very small proportion of what was sown during autumn has perished. So far virtually all of the harvest potential remains in the autumn sowing but it is early days and a lot needs to be done during the long journey to harvest,” says Cathrine Wallin, Regional Manager, Lantmännen Lantbruk.

The extent of how far along spring planting has come varies both between and within different parts of the country, but it is clear that the rising daily temperatures are causing many farmers to start their spring farming earlier this year. In Närke, Uppland and Västmanland, spring farming is, for the most part, complete. In some places, the spring crops have already found their way up. The precipitation during the past week has been much needed where the farmers have had time to sow, but at the same time caused the spring cultivation to halt in Dalarna and Hälsingland, where it is estimated that they continue this week.

Furthermore, sowing has already begun in parts of Jämtland and Medelpad, not least around Sundsvall. Around Umeå and further north it is still a little too cold in the soils, but as it gets warmer spring sowing can start. In general, in these latitudes, farmers tend to get out in the fields earlier in coastal agriculture. Inlands, it will take a while longer before the conditions are right.

Increased climate adaptation to enable growth

The experience of severe weather changes ahead of the harvests of recent years is prompting farmers to review their cultivation strategies. Autumn sowing is record-breaking and the grassland, which is so important for the region, is facing increased competition from more heat-resistant maize cultivation for feed and silage. Both are clear examples of farmers adapting to a changing climate.

"Farmers have always understood that every decision in cultivation has both significance and consequence. In recent years, I can state that these decisions are made to a greater extent to reduce the risks of volume loss, so also this year," concludes Cathrine Wallin.

“Swedish agriculture and food production are world-class in terms of sustainability, animal welfare and food quality – with growth-focused investments and measures for climate adaptation, we can increase volumes significantly. Creating the conditions for a viable agriculture is a prerequisite for stronger preparedness,” says Patrik Myrelid, Head of Strategy at Lantmännen and member of the Swedish government's national expert council for climate adaptation.

Additional information related to the Swedish harvest

- [Lantmännen's harvest page](#)
- [Farming of the future](#)
- Farmer's report [Before spring sowing](#) (Only in Swedish)
- [Matvärnet](#) (only in Swedish)

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About Lantmännen

Lantmännen is an agricultural cooperative and Northern Europe's leader in agriculture, machinery, bioenergy and food products. Owned by 17,000 Swedish farmers, Lantmännen has 12,000 employees, operations in over 20 countries and an annual turnover of SEK 70 billion. With grain at the heart of the operations, Lantmännen refine arable land resources to make farming thrive. Some of Lantmännen's best-known food brands are AXA, Kungsörnen, Scan, GoGreen, FINN CRISP, Schulstad and Vaasan. The company is founded on the knowledge and values acquired through generations of farmers. By engaging in research, development and operations throughout the value chain, Lantmännen takes responsibility from field to fork. For more information: www.lantmannen.com