

## UTILIZATION OF WINTER HABIT DONOR, *AEGILOPS TAUSCHII* BY VERNALIZATION AND PHOTOPERIOD MANAGEMENT

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**Abstract:** Allelic diversity in the wild grass *Aegilops tauschii* is vastly greater than that in the D genome of common wheat. Numerous efforts have been made to harness this extensive and highly variable gene pool for wheat improvement. This follows two distinct approaches, first production of amphiploids, between *Triticum turgidum* and *Aegilops tauschii*, and second direct hybridization between *Aegilops tauschii* and *Triticum aestivum*; both approaches then involve backcrossing to *Triticum aestivum*. Long duration, winter habit and specific requirements for raising *Aegilops tauschii* often make it difficult for every breeder to utilize the resource in their breeding programme. We demonstrate an easy low cost protocol for raising *Aegilops tauschii*, three times a year to facilitate the hybridization programs.

**Keywords:** Growth chamber, Faster breeding, Hybridization, Low cost

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