

# Kernza

*(Thinopyrum intermedium)*

All of the grain crops that people eat are annual plants that grow for a season and then die after producing grain. These annual crops need to be replanted every year, and farmers often use soil tillage before planting. However, soil tillage can degrade soil health and leave soil susceptible to erosion.

Scientists are domesticating a wild grass (Kernza) into a perennial grain crop that can be planted once and then harvested for multiple years. Kernza is being developed at the Land Institute in Kansas and is the first perennial grain to be grown by farmers and used in commercial products. Perennial grain crops keep the soil covered throughout the year and help protect the soil from erosion while regenerating soil health.

## The Perennial System

