

Straw

Straw is the dried stalk of cereal plants. It is the ear that produces the grain. You may hear cereals referred to as 'corn', this is a general term, which includes wheat, oats, barley and rye, and triticale. Most straw craftsmen prefer wheat straw to work with, although other cereals can have their uses.

The straw needs to be long, hollow and thin-walled. Modern varieties grown for commercial farming do not have this quality. Today's wheat has been developed to produce more and more grain, and the straw is much shorter and thicker to hold larger ears, and to prevent it going flat.

Straw craftsmen prefer the older varieties, which are now only grown by specialist farmers for thatching or corn dollies.



wheat



barley



oats



rye

Above are drawings of four types of cereal, but one is missing. Triticale is a cross between wheat and rye. What do you think it looks like? Can you draw it?

Can you link the groups of letters together to spell the cereals?

OA

EY

WH

IT

I

E

LE

CA

RY

BA

AT

TS

RL

E

TR