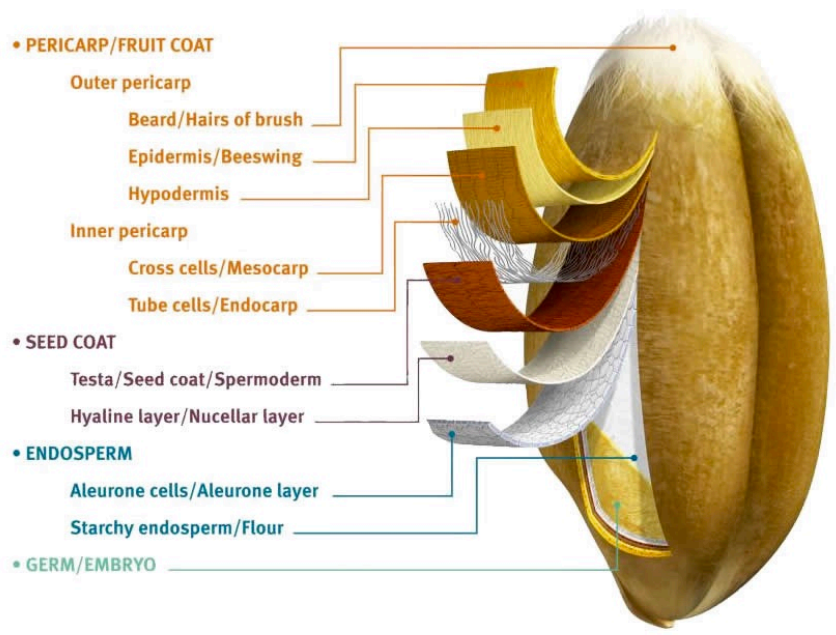
# DAILY BREAD

"Grain of Hope : Slice of Heaven"

# SCATTER

Wheat seed and flower




## Seed

Burial survivor, light seeker,
Earth piercer, maker of roots,
You hold the thrust and sun of countless summers
In a small grain; you capsule the past
And hold the future curled in a world as tiny
As an apple pip. May we, whose bodies
Are gene-capsules, we who are composed
From aeons of our fore-parents, yet each
Is a new being, born to create
In the span of a brief life: may each of us
Be potent as seed.

Diane Pacitti, 2020

**Wheat** grains are seeds, the product of botanic sex, a complicated and intricate process. Why would a plant go to all the trouble of seed production when they are so very good at reproducing asexually - simply growing clones of themselves from a stem, root or leaf?

Like an animal egg, a seed provides a weatherproof, stable environment for an embryo, essential in dry terrestrial environments. It stores nutrition to boost growth of the new seedling - protein-rich aleurone and starchy endosperm. But perhaps most significantly, making a seed mixes up genes from two sources, creating variation and driving adaptation and evolution of new forms.

Before human involvement, early wheat seed had sophisticated dispersal mechanisms - long spiky awns that tangle in animal fur and twist a seed into the soil. These have been bred out - they are very inconvenient for large scale harvesting. Modern wheat seeds are also much heavier and starchier than their ancestors. Like a highly bred pug dog, modern wheat can't survive without its human partners.

St James's Church
197 Piccadilly
London
W1J 9LL

A ROCHA GOLD AWARD WINNER 2018 ECO CHURCH learn more