

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018



Assured Agronomy

Spring 2018 has been one of the most unusual weather patterns we can remember with exceptional rain and late drilling into cold soils. The most difficult land switching into Fallow. We then had May where sunlight levels are one of the highest on record with phenomenal crop growth. This leaves us now with cropping potential far exceeding expectations two months ago. That being said the dry weather is now biting on lighter soils and bare areas from earlier waterlogging will drag down field averages. Disease levels in crops have been well controlled and hopefully a gentle weather pattern will allow crops to finish well. Looking to the autumn we learn that the new OSR herbicides have not gained approval in time so their launch is delayed until spring 2019. Our view is their use in spring is much inferior to autumn use. Government delays in approval are becoming a major obstacle for Ag Chem Manufacturers

Now is a good opportunity to review cropping plans and fertiliser requirements for the coming year.

New Season Nitrogen has come out £40 per tonne up year on year as improved grain prices and higher oil prices influence the market.

In order to make best use of all nutrition accurate sampling is required. Please book early for soil sampling so we can plan efficiently. We can also soil zone and provide variable rate sowing plans for autumn drilling.

We also offer Blackgrass/ Ryegrass seed resistance tests to help target herbicide use. Seed sampling should commence as soon as seeds are naturally mature and begin to shed.

Erucic Acid contamination in Oilseed Rape is also becoming more of an issue. It is prudent to test home saved seed to ensure sample purity. HEAR OSR volunteers from crops many years ago could still be a contaminant.

We now offer bespoke Soil Health Audits to allow a more in depth look at the land condition. Please contact us for more detail.

31 Jul: Closing date for countryside stewardship applications, NOT 30th Sept as in previous years
1 Aug: RPA derogations begin for cutting or trimming hedges throughout August, to sow oilseed rape or temporary grassland

1 Aug: Closed period, organic manure with high available N to tillage land on shallow or sandy soils except where crops will be sown on or before 15 September

1 Sep: Hedges can be cut

1 Sep: Closed period, manufactured N to tillage land

15 Sep: Closed period, manufactured N to grass land

16 Sep: Closed period, organic manure with high available N to tillage land on shallow or sandy soils that has been sown with crops on or before 15 September.



OSR Establishment:

2018 will see the fifth crop of oilseed rape go into the ground since the ban on neonicotinoids. We have seen some crop loss due to cabbage stem flea beetle but there have been less cases than we would have first anticipated. Failed crops have generally been re-drilled early enough and still made good crops come harvest. This has not been the case in other parts of the UK and we should still be very wary of the damage that can be caused by the pest. Good establishment and early growth are key to getting the crop away from the pest. Here are some key points to achieving this:

- **Don't delay drilling** - drilling beyond the first week of September is risky, however do not drill too early as this will increase the risk of cabbage root fly.
- **Good seedbed preparation** - Fine level seedbed will help reduce the habitat for flea beetle.
- **Apply Nitrogen** - Will help the crop produce biomass, Do not exceed 30kg/ha
- **Even establishment** - even seed depth

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INDEPENDENT AGRONOMY

PRECISION FARMING



Graham Chester



Ken Chappell



Kathryn Vaughan



Ben Vaughan

INTRODUCING TOM

We are pleased to announce a new member of our team Tom Clark. Tom joins us from Syngenta where he worked as a trials manager. Tom has many years' experience in agriculture since graduating from Reading University in 2010. Tom lives in Scothern and when not working enjoys cycling and running.



The start of June highlighted the need to grow a sensible area of Orange Wheat Blossom Midge (owbm) resistant varieties. This is a pest that can seriously reduce yield by damaging the grain. We have very little in our armoury to control it, the insecticides we do have are also not very effective.

There are however a good range of owbm varieties on the recommended list many of which are some of the highest yielding. The table to the right shows the varieties currently on the recommended list ranked by *S.tritici* resistance, as this is something that should be top of our thoughts when choosing a variety. *S.tritici* is the most prevalent disease in the uk, no variety is truly resistant to it, although some varieties are better than others allowing for ease of management around spray timings.

Out of 11 candidate varieties for the 2018 harvest, 9 have owbm resistance and all look to have good *S.tritici* ratings also these will need fine tuning this year. *S.tritici* ratings for candidate varieties may drastically alter once added to the recommended list.

Variety	S.Tritici	Group	Yield	Weakness
LG Sundance	7.4	4 soft	102	Lodging/Eyespot/Late
Elicit	6.4	3	103	Eyespot
Gleam	6.2	4 hard	105	
KWS Crispin	6.1	4 hard	102	Lodging/Late sown only
Skyfall	6	1	100	
LG Motown	5.7	4 soft	102	Lodging
Myriad	5.5	4 soft	99	Late/Y.rust
Zulu	5.4	3	99	Lodging/Y.rust
KWS Kerrin	5.3	4 hard	105	Lodging
RGT Gravity	5.2	4 hard	106	Lodging/Mildew
Reflection	5.2	4 hard	102	Y.Rust
KWS Basset	5.2	3	100	Late
KWS Jackal	5.1	4 soft	104	B.Rust
Elation	4.7	4 soft	104	Eyespot
KWS Barrel	4.7	3	103	Eyespot
Leeds	4.6	4 soft	101	Late/Mildew
Viscount	4.6	4 soft	98	Chitting in the ear
KWS Santiago	4.3	4 hard	103	Lodging
2018 harvest candidate varieties..				
LG Skyscraper	6	4 soft	109	Tall/Lodging
LG Spotlight	6	4 soft	106	Late
LG Intersellar	6	4 soft	106	Tall/Lodging/B.Rust/Late
LG Sabertooth	6	4 soft	106	V.Tall/Lodging/Late
SY Loki	6	4 soft	105	Lodging
LG Jigsaw	6	4 hard	104	Mildew/Late
KWS Firefly	6	3	103	
LG Rhythm	6	3	102	Lodging
LG Detroit	6	1-2	101	Mildew/B.rust/Late

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