

CROSS CROP CORNER

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 6 |
AUGUST 2024

Welcome...

Receive updates across Cereals, Sugar Beet and Maize throughout the season with the Cross Crop Newsletter.

...to the August edition of KWS UK's Cross Crop Corner. In this issue, the technical team will be discussing topics relevant to this stage of the season for all our key crops within our portfolio.

What will we cover?

- Andrew reviews the maize season so far and tells us a bit about KWS UK's upcoming open days
- Martin introduces our NEW Cercospora tolerant sugar beet variety
- Rory looks at drilling and establishment in OSR and hybrid rye
- We take a first look at provision winter barley harvest results with Olivia

Thank you for reading!

Best Regards,
The Cross Crop Corner Team



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Open day season is upon us!

Maize with Andrew

"Looking back on the season to date, few maize growers have escaped the effects of the cold, wet start. Planting was put back by up to three weeks this year and the situation was very frustrating for growers. The knock-on effect could be a delay in harvest by perhaps two to four weeks, depending on geographic location and varietal choice. This will apply even if the weather improves and there is a degree of catch-up.

This type of season is when ultra early (also known as short season) varieties really come into their own. Standard maize varieties will take about 160 days to reach maturity, whereas the figure for ultra early varieties can be as little as 130 days. The challenging weather led to a rush of orders for our ultra early varieties, and we have options to suit every farm situation. They offer a degree of insurance if conditions are



less than ideal, which is the only way to describe 2024.

The stop-start planting period may mean staggered growth rates for crops and this is combined with the differences in progress where more than one variety has been sown. To get the best results from maize, it must only be harvested when it is ready. Ideally, some flexibility should be introduced for this year, so it may be worth making plans early and perhaps speaking to the contractor about the options or factoring it into harvest work planning for staff.

A lot will depend on factors like soil type, field location, variety and the autumn weather. A minority of farms may realise the full yield and quality potential of their

maize varieties, but results are not expected to break any records on the five-year average.

If you'd like to see the KWS maize portfolio in the field, our maize demonstration site in Lydney, Gloucestershire will be welcoming visitors throughout the month of September. You will be able to assess new and current KWS maize hybrid varieties in the ground and view with population wheel, which demonstrates the effects of a range of seed rates. The main farm site has its own anaerobic digester plant, while the plots at nearby Yorkley, showcase maize that has been planted at 550 feet above sea-level. The sites are unique in the UK. To book your visit please contact your merchant or the KWS Maize office: maize@kws-uk.com

We look forward to welcoming you!"

Sugar beet with Martin

“CONVISO® SMART Seed is now available to buy from merchants. For this season KWS sugar beet seed will be sold using the Seed Portal from British Sugar, the same way as the past few seasons. A date for ordering classical seed is not yet available.



The recent sunny and warm weather has helped crops put on root weight and sugars. Backwards crops have caught up surprisingly well, the rains in early summer certainly helped all crops. It does appear some crops on lighter soils are flagging quite a bit during the day and need more water.

Diseases have been showing themselves for a couple of weeks now. Rust and mildew have been easy to find in some fields, others not so. Cercospora Leaf Spot (CLS) has also been found in some locations, not yet at high levels. With dews and potentially the forecast of some rains the risk of diseases increasing is high. Crops which have not yet received a fungicide should be treated with one soon.

Introducing CHYMA KWS

Looking at the importance of varieties with good disease scores should not be underestimated. The range of disease scores within the sugar beet RL is less than that of the winter wheat RL for example but attention should still be paid to them. For sowing in 2025 we are launching CHYMA KWS, a standard RZ sugar beet variety with a very high tolerance to CLS and uses our CR+ technology.



This image (left) shows plots treated with fungicides twice, CHYMA KWS on the right-hand side. A significantly greener and more vigorous canopy.

Source: KWS UK Cercospora trial, Cambridgeshire, 2023.



During 2023 we had a replicated trial looking at the impacts of CLS. The data in the table below is from the trial and highlights the benefits of choosing CHYMA KWS over a variety with a low CLS rating.

TRIAL TREATMENTS		
	Inoculated with CLS and two fungicides	Uninoculated with CLS and two fungicides
CHYMA KWS (t/ha)	122.2	118.6
Control variety (t/ha)	110.61	114.72
Percentage increase over control	10.5%	3.4%
Margin increase per hectare at £33/t	£383	£129

CONVISO® SMART stewardship

Please remember to pull bolters in all fields. One of the key stewardship actions to preserve the longevity of the CONVISO® SMART technology is to ensure scrupulous removal of bolters to prevent seed shed and a problem developing where the seed bank becomes contaminated with weed beet tolerant to ALS-chemistry. **Consequently planning, meticulous management and attention to detail is vital.**

Ideally plants should be destroyed pre-flowering and removed from the field; snapping the stem close to the base can be an option at this timing. If plants have started to flower, then uproot bolters and remove from the field to minimise the risk of mature seed being shed.”

2025 Sugar Beet Variety Guide

Introducing our variety choices for 2025.

Click [here](#) to download now



OSR and Hybrid Rye with Rory Drilling and establishment

Hybrid Rye

“Rye drilling usually begins from September onwards. There may be a tendency for growers to want to get crops drilled earlier this year with the previous autumn’s weather in mind. Rye seed is not the most vigorous or quick establishing crop so preparing a good, even seedbed to ensure adequate seed to soil contact, having sufficient soil moisture at drilling and rolling post drilling is essential to get the crop off to a good start. Rye is best drilled slightly shallower than wheat & barley at 2-3 cm deep, due to its lack of vigour, it can struggle to emerge from depth. The shallower drilling depth of rye may limit certain pre-emergence herbicide options, it is worth checking product labels on soil coverage requirements, to help reduce the chance of any damage to the rye crop.



General seed rates are listed below as a guideline but may need to be tailored more depending on soil type, seedbed quality and slug risk. Visit our online seed rate tool to find your ideal seed rate and to help work out drill rate in Kg/Ha from seed per m².

September: 175-200 seeds per m²

October: 220-260 seeds per m²

November: 300+ seeds per m²

Hybrid Rye is supplied in 12 million seed packs, depending on thousand grain weight the actual weight of the pack can vary. Based on a seed rate of 200 seeds per m² 1 pack should cover 6Ha. If increasing/decreasing the seed rate then 1 pack will cover a different hectareage, see the table below on how much a pack will cover based on your desired seed rate, so you know how many packs of hybrid rye you require.

Seed Rate m ²	Hectares Drilled / 12 M. Seed Unit.
175	6.9
190	6.3
200	6.0
210	5.7
220	5.5
230	5.2
240	5.0
250	4.8
260	4.6
270	4.4
290	4.1
300	4.0

KWS Tayo is the most popular variety in the UK at the moment, it is one of the highest yielding

varieties on the Descriptive List and has the highest rating for brown rust as well.

Oilseed Rape

Oilseed rape as a viable break crop is in a tricky place in the UK. There are obviously many benefits to having the crop in the rotation, however with pest pressures and variability in weather patterns it is becoming more risky and less financially rewarding to grow the crop.

On the whole, the end of July has been relatively hot and dry, perhaps with limited drill windows due to lack of moisture combined with a lack of confidence in growing the crop in general, means there will have been very few early drilled OSR crops. As some rain potentially arrives at the start of August, there may be an opportunity to get a vigorous growing conventional variety in, such as Campus, as a cheaper option of give it a go and see what happens method, before the dreaded cabbage stem flea beetles migrate. The east of the country seemed to get away with minimal flea beetle attack last year and most seemed to be concentrated up in the north of the country. Campus was first recommended in 2014 and has a loyal following still to this day, due to its consistency with yields and fast growth habit in the autumn.

To help mitigate cabbage stem flea beetle migration at the end of August, there has been a trend for later drilling in September in recent years. Hybrid varieties have become a popular option here for their tendency to be more vigorous in growth than conventional varieties. Hinsta is our current candidate up for recommendation this year with a high gross out put of 107% across all regions, has 7s for both light leaf spot and stem canker from its National Listing data. Hinsta has our standard built in traits with resistance to TuYV and pod shatter too.”

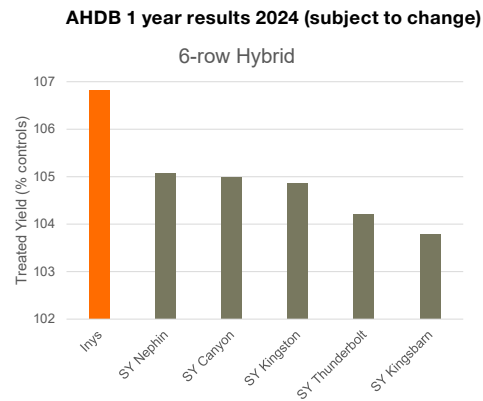
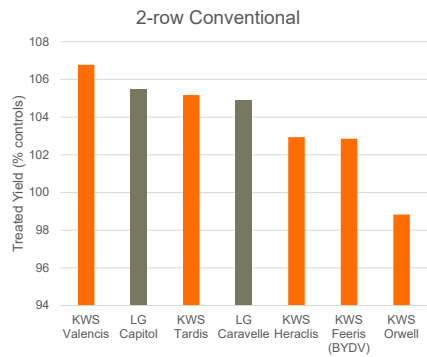


Let's take a look at... Winter barley harvest results

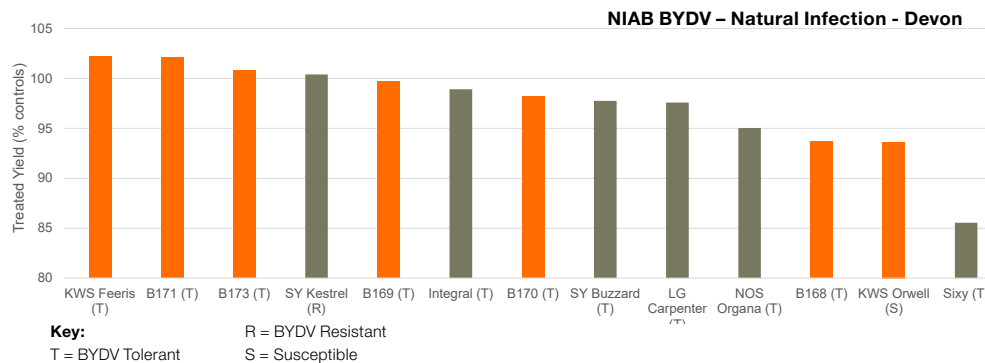
Cereals with Olivia



"The data shown below comes from the AHDB harvest results service, which delivers the latest data and commentary from Recommended Lists (RL) variety trials. We have been very pleased with how our winter barley candidates have come through this challenging season. Below we have the provisional 1 year results from AHDB for both hybrids and conventionals.

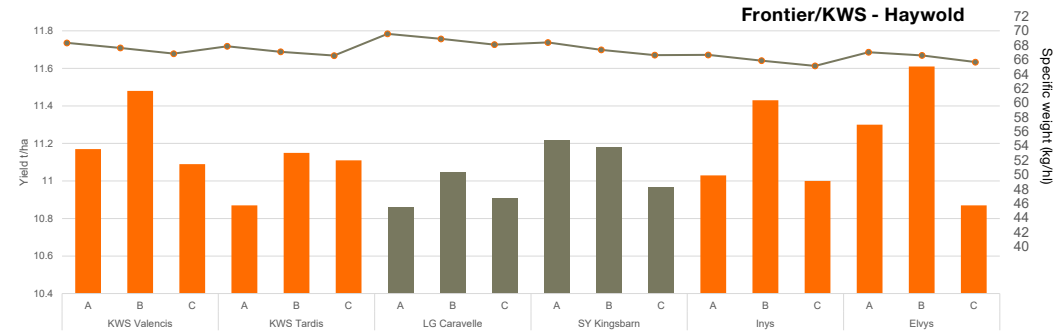


The data below is from a trial we do with NIAB in Devon where they tend to get good levels of BYDV infection. In general, KWS Feeris has had a good year this year. So, no surprises it has topped the yield graph. This trial is a good assessment to see whether some of our newer material coming through stands up to what is already on the market.



Treatment Conditions	
A	Untreated
B	GS31 - Belcocel 1.0 + Palisade 0.15
C	GS30 - Belcocel 1.0 + Palisade 0.15
	GS31 - Belcocel 1.0 + Palisade 0.15
	GS33-37 - Terpal 0.5 + Activator 90 0.2

This is a joint trial with Frontier looking at PGR interactions with hybrid and conventional winter barley. KWS Valencis, KWS Tardis and LG Caravelle are conventionals and SY Kingsbarn, Inys and Elvys are hybrids.



The higher inputs are intended to give you better lodging control, if you don't get any lodging then you are unlikely to get a benefit and hope there are no significant negatives. Although in this trial we had some leaning and brackling in varieties, there was no lodging.

Negatives are usually associated with stress which might be related to lack of soil moisture (unlikely this year) or temperature at or around the time of PGR application. Although these results are showing slightly higher yields with treatment B (0.2/3t/ha) these difference are small. next months newsletter, I will talking about some of our winter wheat results, so stay tuned!"

KWS Harvest Competition 2024

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS AND VIDEOS TO WIN!

📷 : Harry Horrell, 2024 entrant

[ENTER HERE](#)

Thanks for reading!

See you next month - in the mean time, why not follow us on social media?



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