

CROSS CROP CORNER

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 7 |
SEPTEMBER 2024

Welcome...

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

...to the September 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?

- Olivia discusses AHDB winter wheat trial results
- Rory gives tip for late-drilled rye and discusses our new hybrid barley variety, Inys
- The 2024 sugar beet campaign has kicked off. Martin discusses what to do when harvesting CONVISO® SMART beet
- Andrew explains how to assess cob maturity and determine when your maize is fit for harvest

Thank you for reading! Don't forget, if you know anyone that may be interested in this newsletter, please feel free to forward it on, and encourage them to sign up.



Rory Hannam

Technical Manager
Hybrid Crops UK



Olivia Bacon

UK Conventional
Technical Manager



Martin Brown

Agro-service Manager
Sugar Beet UK



Andrew Cook

Maize Product &
Technical Sales
Manager

AHDB Winter Wheat Harvest Results

Cereals with Olivia

"Cereals harvest is over! For most of us anyway, still a few standing crops of linseed around which definitely will not have liked the downpour of rain we have just had! You will remember me talking about all of the winter wheat candidate varieties that KWS have this year. Well, we have had 7 of those re-sown into next years trials which



is great news so fingers crossed when it comes to recommendation in November we have the same success!

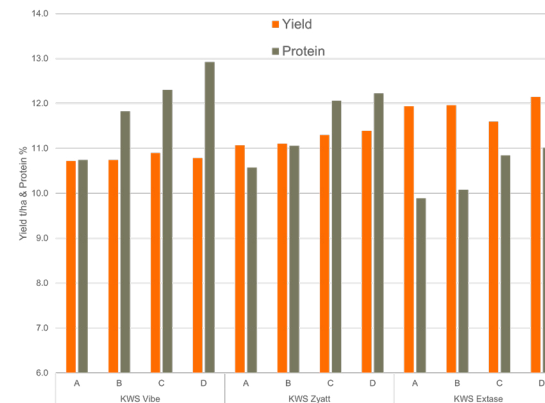
Below, you can see harvest results from some

of these exciting new candidates. If you would like anymore information then please get in touch for next years drilling!

These trials are all privately run with external trial contractors, it's a great way of gaining more information and getting these varieties out there for everyone to see.

Always handy to have extra data in conjunction with AHDB's.

Sutton Scotney - NIAB

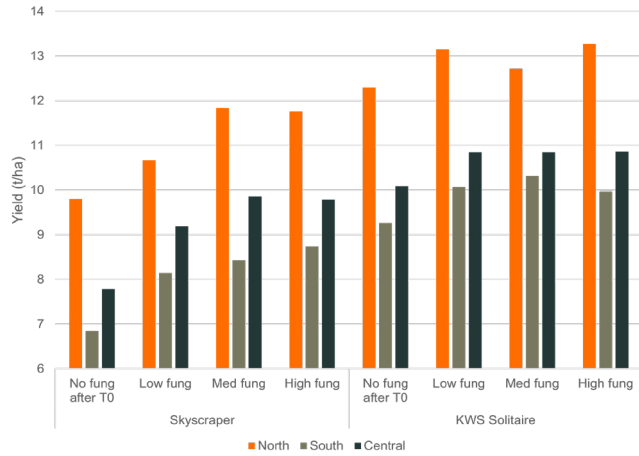


A = 200kgs/ha
B = 220kgs/ha
C = RB209 standard for milling
D = RB209 standard for milling + 25%
1st N Dose: 28/02/24
2nd N Dose: 21/03/24
3rd N Dose: 03/04/24

LSD P=.05 - 0.42
Standard Deviation - 0.299
CV - 2.68

It has been a high-pressure year, with protein targets difficult to hit. We trialed varieties with NIAB at different nitrogen rates. The graph shows KWS Vibe, our potential Group 1, compared to KWS Zyatt and KWS Extase in yield and protein. While KWS Vibe doesn't surpass KWS Zyatt in treated yield, it offers better protein levels due to its German parentage and significantly improves untreated yield.

KWS Solitaire vs. Skyscraper



South
LSD P=.05 - 0.42
Standard Deviation - 0.299
CV - 2.68

Central
LSD P=.05 - 0.412
Standard Deviation - 0.251
CV - 2.45

Central
LSD P=.05 - 0.362
Standard Deviation - 0.378
CV - 3.203

Here is an example of KWS Solitaire (potential group 3) in trial against Skyscraper, I think it is fair to say that Skyscraper is getting dirtier now so it is nice to have a few new group 3's in the market with the premium being good this year, hopefully that continues, and we can bring a bit more interest back to the group 3 sector.

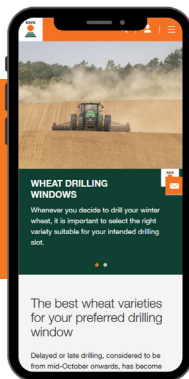
Site	Timing	5/1/2024	5/31/2024	6/19/2024
South	4/20/2024	5/7/2024	5/31/2024	6/17/2024
Central	4/17/2024	5/7/2024	5/31/2024	6/17/2024
North	4/20/2024	5/8/2024	6/1/2024	6/20/2024
Growth Stage	GS 26-30	GS 31-32	GS 39	GS 59-65
No Fungicide after T0	Teb 0.5 l	3C 1.5 l Moddus 0.15 l	Untreated	Untreated
Low fung	Teb 0.5 l	PTZ 250 0.6 l Arizona 1.0 l 3C 1.5 l Moddus 0.15 l	Revystar XE 1.25 l Arizona 1.0 l	PTZ 250 0.5 l Teb 0.4 l Arizona 1.0 l
Medium fung	Teb 0.5 l	Ascra 1.0 l Arizona 1.0 l 3C 1.5 l Moddus 0.15 l	Revystar XE 1.25 l Arizona 1.0 l	PTZ 250 0.5 l Teb 0.4 l Arizona 1.0 l
High Fung	Teb 0.5 l	Univog 1.0 l Arizona 1.0 l 3C 1.5 l Moddus 0.15 l	Revystar XE 1.25 l Arizona 1.0 l	PTZ 250 0.5 l Teb 0.4 l Arizona 1.0 l

Figure 1: Treatments and timings

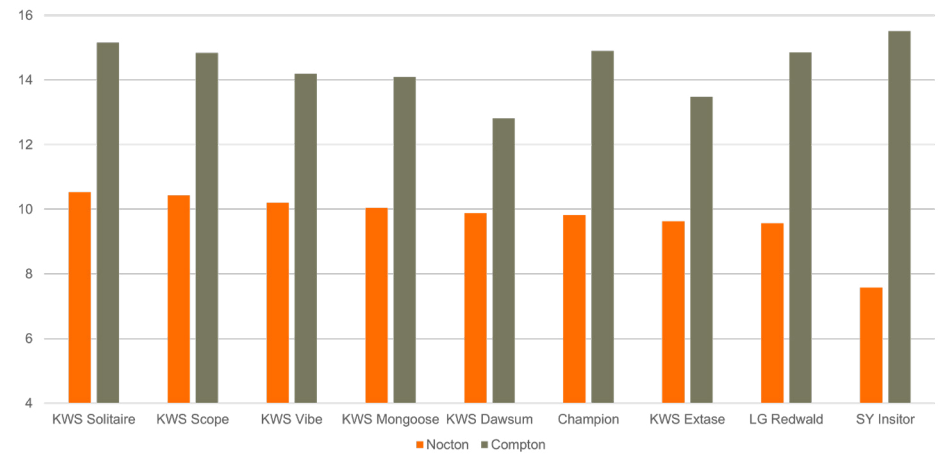
So as you can see from the graph, KWS Solitaire has performed much better than Skyscraper across 3 sites in Scotland even with very little fungicide compared to Skyscrapers high fungicide yield result.



Find the best varieties for your chosen drilling window. Click [here](#).



Dyson Farm Research - Winter wheat characteristics trial



In these trial series with Dyson we had very high septoria levels at Compton, but despite this the site yielded very well as you can see, it was drilled in good time and established very well. The site at Nocton was untreated until T2 so the yield suffered somewhat from that, it was also drilled middle of November so establishment wasn't great.

We do these trials every year, they don't just give yield results, they also go into depth about tiller numbers, populations in the spring, canopy cover, growth stages all through the season, GDVI, yellow rust, septoria and any other diseases present. If anyone wants any more information on what we found get in touch!"



Rory talks drilling!

Hybrid Rye

“Hopefully by the time this article is published the bulk of rye drilling has been completed. We wouldn’t advise drilling rye into November as it is slow to get going and could well sit very unhappy in wet seedbeds. However, if there are growers out there giving it a go, we are always keen to hear how they get on sowing later in the season, good or bad!



Below is a table for advised drilling rates when drilling later in the season and then a graphic showing the impact of increasing the seed rate and the number of hectares covered with a standard 12 million seed unit pack.

Seed Rate m ²	Hectares Drilled / 12 M. Seed Unit.	Month	Seed Rate (Seeds/m ²)
175	6.9	Start October - End of October	220-260
190	6.3		
200	6.0		
210	5.7		
220	5.5		
230	5.2		
240	5.0		
250	4.8	November	300+
260	4.6		
270	4.4		
290	4.1		
300	4.0		

If drilling later, missing a pre-em may be an option, if weed pressures are low, as to not hold back early development too much.

Hybrid Barley

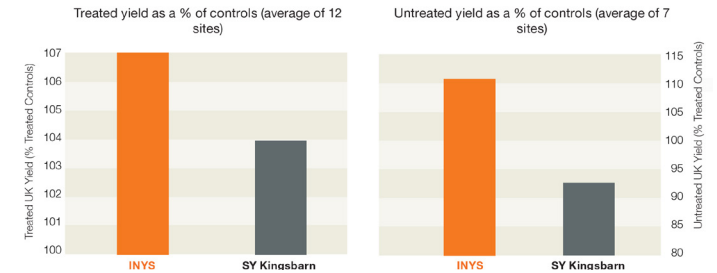
“At KWS we have our first hybrid barley Inys which is a candidate this year and is up for recommendation in November. We have had Inys in various private trials as well as the AHDB trialing system and it is looking like a very promising variety. In a nutshell, from publicly available data so far Inys is outyielding SY Kingsbarn by 3% this year, has 17.8% less lodging, 12.8% less brackling and has a 18% higher untreated yield.

For those who have growers who haven’t drilled yet, from an agronomic perspective Inys should be treated similarly to other hybrids out on the market. Drilled at 200 seeds per m² from middle of September through to end of October. This seed rate should be increased to 250 seeds



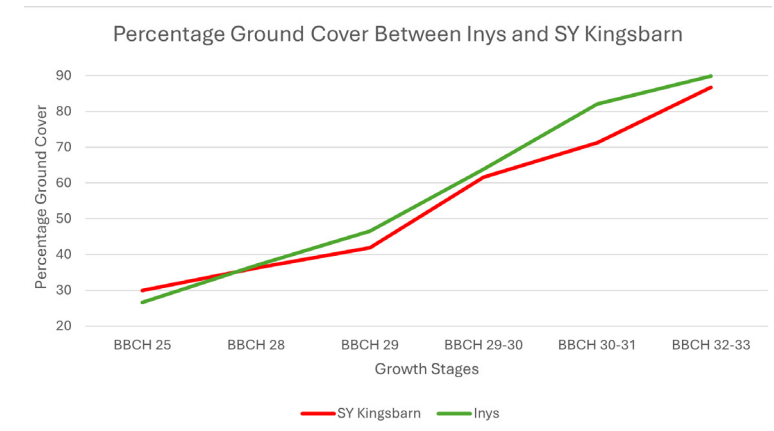
per m² if the seed bed is poor, drilling later in the season or if there is a grassweed pressure.

A lot of growers could well be drilling earlier this year with last autumn’s weather in mind, which could well lead to large blackgrass pressures this season. Hybrid barley could be a good option in this earlier drilling window due to its competitive nature against grassweeds in the spring. Choosing hybrid barley in the rotation isn’t a ‘magic bullet’ answer to



the blackgrass burden but is a viable tool to use alongside others to help reduce weed pressure.

A trial with Dyson Farming Research showed that it covered the ground better than SY Kingsbarn in a small plot trial, something we have also seen on a field scale with some split field trials across the country, showing that Inys provides good competitiveness and covers the ground well early in the season.”



The 2024 beet campaign has commenced!

Sugar Beet with Martin

“ In general crops are looking good and fungicides seems to be holding back disease development.

Early yield reports do show there are some good yields about, we've already heard of 100t/ha crops (probably an exception rather than the norm). Speaking to a couple of harvester operators they have commented the land which has been drained is yielding better than undrained land, probably a legacy of last years wet winter.

With the recent rains and warm weather there may well be an increase of disease. A second or third fungicide application is probably worth considering whilst factoring in the interval from the last spray, variety choice and planned harvest date. For crops which are going to be harvested in the cooler months a healthier canopy will offer increased protection to the roots from frost ingress.

What to do when harvesting classical and CONVISO® SMART beet?

- Pull and remove any bolters which are setting seed or flowering and ideally remove them from the field.
- Pay attention to harvester set up to minimise losses
- Ploughing is recommended to bury beet tops and small unharvested

- beet at risk of re-growing
- Areas used for temporary storage in the field (eg. headland) can be high risk for groundkeeper establishment. If the land is not ploughed, consider not cropping these areas and managing the regrowth with glyphosate
- Monitor for emergence of groundkeepers in subsequent crops and take action to remove before plants become well established and harder to control
- Unlike conventional varieties, remember, groundkeepers arising from CONVISO® SMART varieties will tolerate ALS herbicides; approved chemistry from the auxin mimics (HRAC group 4) can be effective alternative treatment in cereals. Beware efficacy is not always reliable; mixtures can work best, small plants are more susceptible and plants should be actively growing at / following treatment”



Harvest has started!

Maize with Andrew

Harvest is underway and due to the wide spread of drilling dates in the spring this will be reflected in crop maturity and affect optimal harvest time.

Clearly there will be a balance that needs to be achieved in terms of optimizing the current crop performance with protection of soils and any future rotation plans.

Assessment of crop maturity will help identify the optimal time for forage harvest, and the video linked will quickly explain how to assess both the cob and stover maturity. Watch [here](#).

- To assess cob maturity, snap a cob, and split a grain. There should be little or no moisture left in the grain.
- To assess stover maturity, snap a stem at the proposed cutting height. Wring the stem, and a few drops of sap indicate the stover is ready. It should be difficult to get the sap drops out of the stem.
- Look for a balance between the two indicators. Both are equally important.

Effects of harvesting too early

- Lower yield
- Reduced energy and starch
- Lower intake potential

Effects of harvesting too late

- Increased harvesting costs (and soil damage)

- Reduced digestibility and palatability
- Difficult to consolidate in the clamp
- Clamp losses increase due to poor aerobic stability

When checking for harvest readiness, and you are in the southern counties, it is worth checking for signs of corn borer damage. Corn borer has been observed in Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire, and is undoubtedly more widespread than this.

Look for holes in the plant, often with a 'sawdust' residue at the site. Where the hole is in the stem, this will cause weakness where the larvae have burrowed into the stover and will often result in 'snap'. Early detection may result in the larvae being found.

In terms of control, larval stages may overwinter on maize trash, so good husbandry is to 'destroy' any stubble and trash, and bury this to reduce carryover to next year.

Rotation will also help, as the stubble may take two years to decay.



Thanks for reading!

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



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KWS UK Ltd



Product Development Field - Fowlmere

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KWS UK LTD

56 Church Street

Thriplow

Royston

Hertfordshire

SG8 7RE

Tel: 01763 207300

Fax: 01763 207310

www.kws-uk.com