

CROSS CROP CORNER

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 2 |
FEBRUARY 2024

Welcome...

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

...to the February 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 gives advice on Nitrogen applications for KWS Extase
- Rory explains the importance of monitoring disease in oilseed rape and rye
- Andrew discusses why you need to choose maize varieties wisely

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.

Best Regards,
The Cross Crop Corner Team



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

Choose varieties wisely

Maize with Andrew

“Choosing the correct maize variety has a huge impact on field performance, and subsequent performance in the ruminant or digester. Key considerations are; location, soil, rainfall, and desired sowing and harvest dates. It's important that target whole plant dry matter is reached at harvest, which usually means starch has also been laid down effectively. This allows a stable palatable silage to be produced promoting high intakes, and superior performance characteristics.

If a site is less favourable and/or there is a short growing window the advice is generally to choose a low FAO variety, and we



can offer varieties as low as FAO 150 e.g., KWS Temprano. These varieties can be expected to fulfill their potential rapidly, albeit as a slightly lower yield level. Where site conditions are improved and attract more heat units, the site may be regarded as favourable. Here we can consider more mainstream varieties, typically up to FAO 190, e.g., KWS Anastasio, which typically produce higher dry matter yields.

Where we get very favourable sites, and/or we are growing for Biogas we

can consider later varieties again e.g., Keops (FAO 210/220), which offer larger yield potential and wider harvest windows due to their 'stay green' characteristics.

The key consideration is to ensure the crop reaches target dry matter for harvest, whatever the end use. If you grow a crop which is too late for the site, yield potential will be compromised, and a wet acidic silage produced which is harder to feed and achieve the desired results. Delayed harvest may also compromise future cropping and our valuable soils.

To aid you with this on page 3 of [KWS UK Maize Portfolio](#) is a helpful guide on variety choice, and a further [tool](#) on our website can help you with your selection. The maize team is of course available to discuss further if needed.”



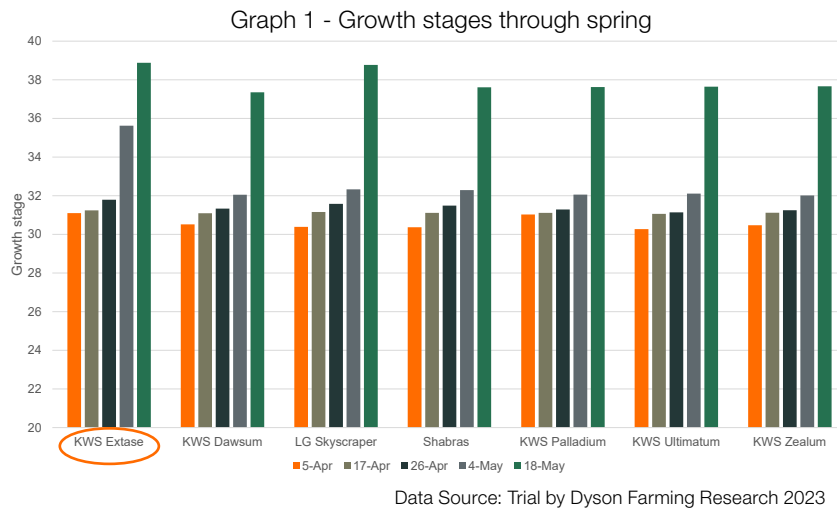
Nitrogen applications...

KWS EXTASE



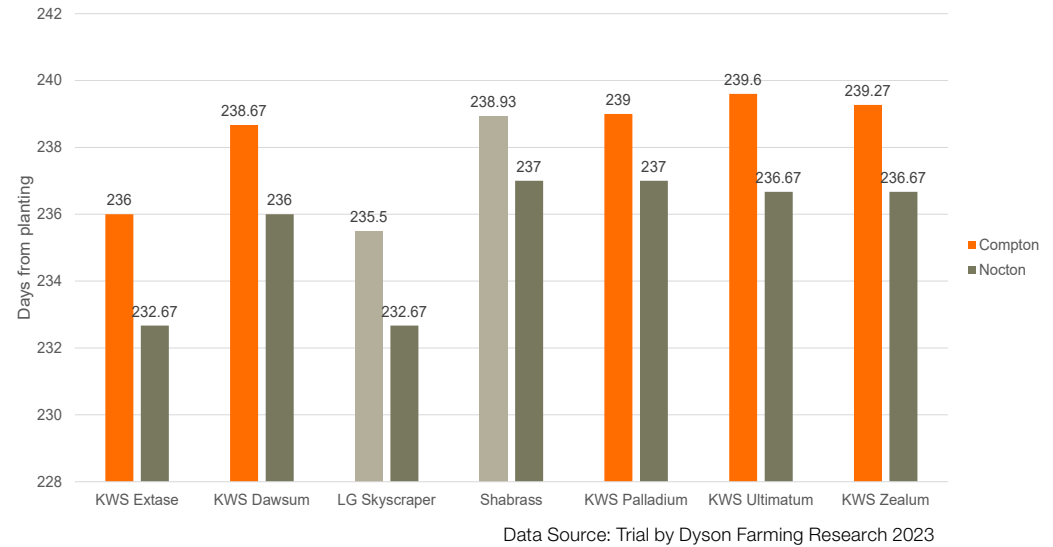
Cereals with Olivia

“Looking ahead at the first application of Nitrogen, the one variety from us that needs monitoring at this time of year is KWS Extase. As the 2nd largest wheat variety in the UK at the moment, most of you will be looking after a crop of it or have done in the past. Like Gallant and Cordiale before it, KWS Extase is characterised by early spring growth and early maturity. Graph 1 below shows spring movement, looking at when different varieties get to certain growth stages.



As you can see, KWS Extase reaches GS35 before any of the other varieties in trial. This is going to be really important when planning Nitrogen applications and which varieties will need doing first. These early flowering and early to harvest varieties do need to be timed right in order to get the best out of them. In Graph 2, see how KWS Extase reaches flowering 3/4 days before most other varieties, depending on location.

Graph 2 - Days to flower



This is going to be especially important when growing KWS Extase on 12.5 or 13% protein contracts. When grown for milling specification in official trials, KWS Extase makes 12.3% protein but boast a significant improvement in yield to all Group 1 varieties, especially untreated.

However, Recommended List Trials do not take into account fast spring development, therefore KWS Extase gets treated like other varieties and perhaps doesn't reach it's full potential in terms of protein in these trials. In France, KWS Extase is the gold standard for bread making! If only we consumed bread like the French do, baked and sold daily in bakeries rather than a 5-7 day shelf-life, we would see a lot more of this variety on our shelves.”

KWS Extase Grower's Guide

Get the most out of your crop with the KWS Extase Grower's Guide

Click [here](#) to download now



Sugar beet with Martin

“Harvest is still progressing, slowly in some cases after more unwanted rain. If you haven’t thought about destroying cover crops in preparation for seed bed cultivations it is something that should be considered soon.



At this very early stage of the 24/25 campaign good steps can already be made to help crop hygiene. Spoil heaps and Maus runs can be cleared of any crowns or remaining beets which could be easily harbouring aphids or beet moth.

CONVISO® SMART

Where CONVISO® SMART crops were grown in 23/24, ensure the fields are cultivated to at least 20cm. We advise this to make groundkeeper control as easy as possible in following crops. Controlling bolters and groundkeepers is part of the Stewardship Agreement. Consider not cropping any part of the field where clamping has taken place. Encourage a competitive crop canopy to aid suppression and herbicide performance. If groundkeepers are present in following crops consider hormone based herbicides. From trials MCPA and 2,4-D have been seen to be effective against ALS-Tolerant sugar beet. ALS Based herbicides will not work!



Please encourage attention to detail to harvester operators. This photo (above) was taken on 16/02/24 showing whole beet left in the ground in a CONVISO® SMART field!



Please make yourself familiar with the following crop recommendations. As we are in the year after application, the following list of crops may be safely sown; winter and spring wheat, winter and spring barley, maize, peas, ryegrass and sunflowers.

If it has dried out enough before I write the next beet segment, consider some pre planting resistance management points.

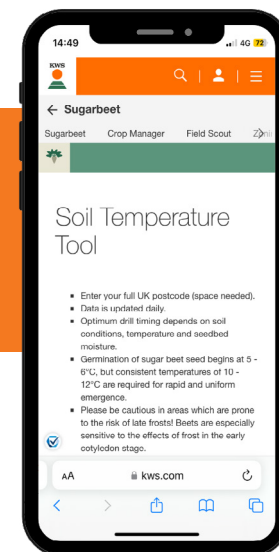
- Use effective cultivations to help minimise the weed burden emerging in crop
- Responsible use of an effective dose of a non-selective herbicide to control germinated weeds pre-drilling (use glyphosate responsibly in line with recently published resistance management guidance)
- Create a seed-bed to encourage rapid germination, even crop establishment & canopy closure as soon as possible to provide an element of crop competition and reduce the threat from late germinating weeds

Please make yourself familiar with **myKWS**, we have some beet specific apps here to help growers. Including our Soil temperature tool and Beet Seed Service. Beet Seed Service is available to all growers of KWS EPD 2.0 Seed. The principal is simple; should you need to re-sow your beet crop we will offer the replacement seed at 50% of the initial sale price of the seed.”

Use our myKWS soil temperature tool to find the optimum time to drill your sugar beet



Click [here](#) to register for your myKWS account



OSR and Hybrid Rye with Rory

Disease pressures - what to look out for

“It’s important to inspect crops on a field by field basis, giving priority to early sown crops and more susceptible varieties.

OSR Disease

“As we (hopefully) start to get more spring like conditions, with fields drying up so farm machinery can start travelling, oilseed rape crops should be monitored for disease that has developed over the last few months. Light leaf spot is the most economically damaging disease to UK oilseed rape and can be widespread throughout the country. Infection can be spread by rainfall and with plenty of rain to go about this winter, potentially coupled with a lack of autumn fungicide due to an ability not to travel, there could be some crops at risk.

It is important to inspect crops on a field by field basis, give priority to early sown crops and more susceptible varieties, those being rated a 5 or below on the AHDB recommended list and treat accordingly. With regards to Phoma Stem Canker, varieties with high resistance ratings such as Hanelli (8) and Codex (9) are less likely to need multiple fungicide applications, so if one was made in the autumn then this may be sufficient. Late infection/reinfections

during December and through to February is unlikely to need control, unless the plants are small and will require consideration of curative chemistry.

Rye disease and PGR

Rye varieties are renowned for being tall with very vigorous early growth. An early PGR may be required on forward looking crops or those varieties more prone to lodging. KWS Igor has a higher lodging percentage compared to KWS Tayo and KWS Gilmor, who have some of the lower lodging scores on the AHDB Descriptive list.

Rye is susceptible to a specific strain of brown rust which does not cross infect with other cereal species. Some early season control will be beneficial, particularly where there has been autumn or overwinter infection. Varieties such as KWS Igor and KWS Gilmor have lower brown rust ratings so prioritise or monitor these more carefully.”



Product Development Field - Fowlmere

This newsletter has been produced to the best knowledge available at the time of printing, no liability can be accepted for any mistakes or loss in relation to this newsletter.

KWS UK LTD

56 Church Street
Thriplow
Royston
Hertfordshire
SG8 7RE
Tel: 01763 207300
Fax: 01763 207310
www.kws-uk.com

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



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