

# CROSS CROP CORNER

NEWSLETTER | **ISSUE 8** |  
OCTOBER 2024

Welcome...

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

...to the October 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 discusses maize harvest and the increased prevalence of corn borer in maize crops this year.
- Olivia discusses late drilling of winter wheat and presents trials from our product development site.
- Rory offers his recommendations for those still needing to drill hybrid barley or rye.

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.



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Agro-service Manager  
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**Andrew Cook**

Maize Product &  
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Manager

## Watch out for Corn Borer! Maize with Andrew

"As I write this the weather has provided a window of opportunity for remaining crops to be harvested. Crops by and large have struggled to reach maturity, with ultra-early varieties often shining in this difficult season. Soils have come under massive pressure during harvest, and if the opportunity to carry out remedial action presents itself this should be grabbed.

Figure 1 - Maize forage harvest (© Kevin Grint 2023)



Harvest results are expected to be variable, some crops reaching target starch and dry matter contents and some not. Some crops have been frosted and we are seeing the full array of crops heading to the clamp. It will therefore be vitally important that clamps are analyzed before feedout, and the appropriate nutritional advice taken to optimize animal performance.

Traveling crops in the southern counties this year, an increased incidence of European corn borer has been seen. If you have suspected corn borer damage, which is often seen as snapped



plants, with a series of small holes causing stem weakness where the larvae have bored into the stem, and 'sawdust' like residue at the site of penetration often evident, then take the opportunity of cultural control post-harvest. Destroy any remaining trash, and incorporate into the soil, which will reduce the population over winter by approximately 75%."



Figure 2 and 3 - Evidence of corn borer in maize crop





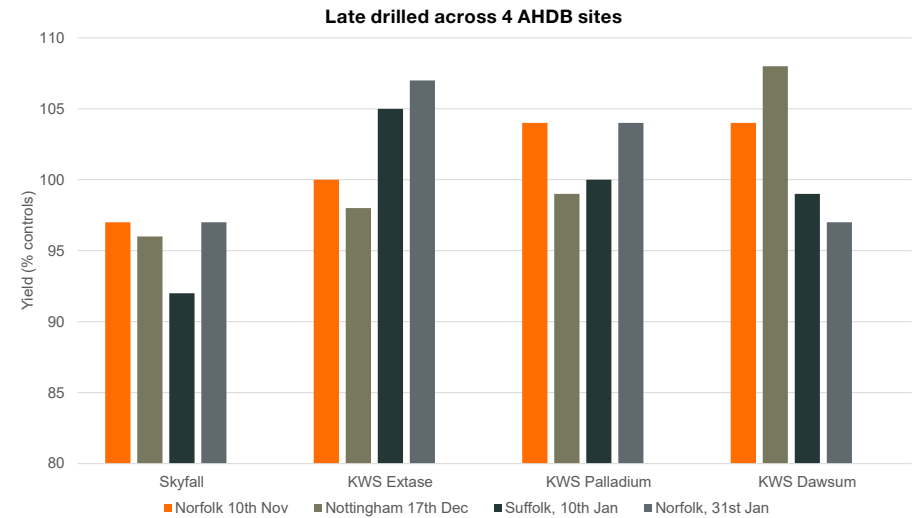
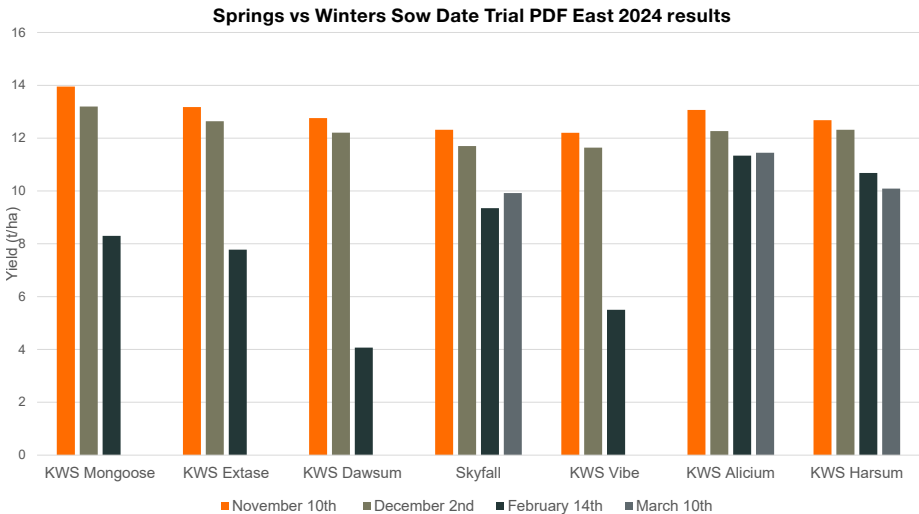
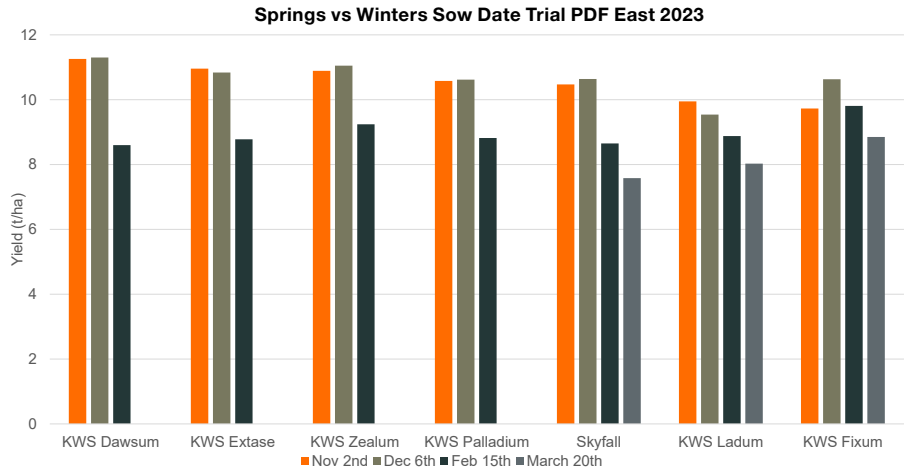
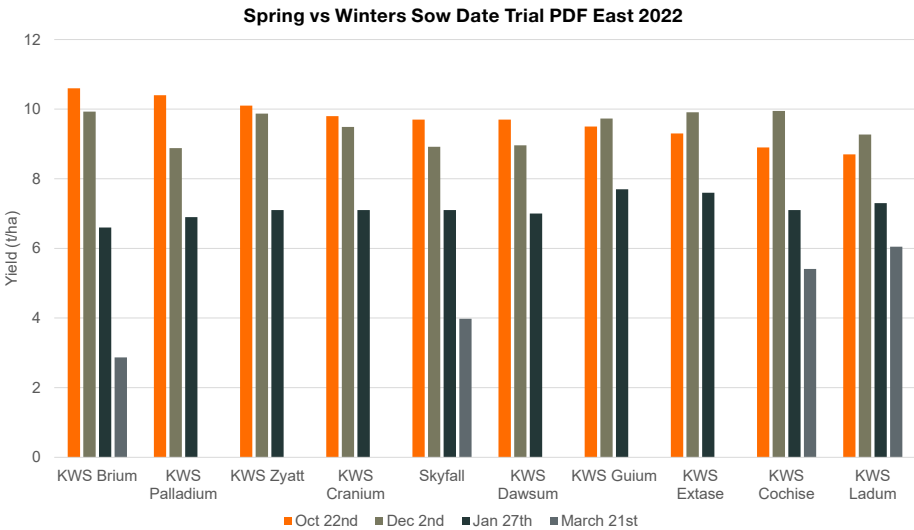
**Cereals with Olivia**  
**There's still time to drill winter wheat!**

“October has been hard. However, as I write this it looks like we are going to get some opportunities this week to carry on drilling our winter cereals.



Most of our trials at KWS are in the ground, which is a relief. If you are on much heavier ground or in another part of the country where the weather is being less helpful, here are 3 years worth of results from our Product Development field, where we look at both winter and spring wheats drilled at different timings. I appreciate these results are from South Cambs but hopefully it gives you an idea. Skyfall is our control in these trials, just because we all know it has great late drilled performance.

However, unless you are going to be drilling right into March, you are still going to achieve better yield the other side of Christmas with something like KWS Extase. I have also added in 4 AHDB later drilled trials as well just for context.”



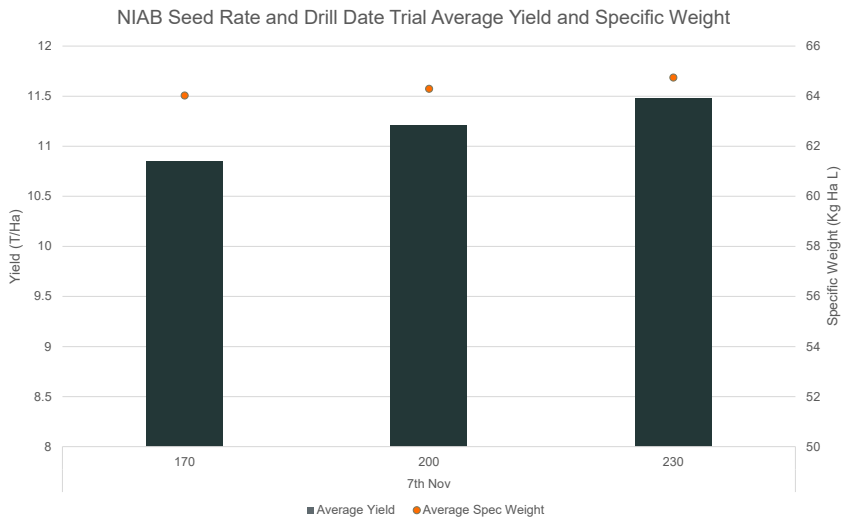


# Rory's recommendations for November drilling of hybrid crops!

## Hybrid Barley

“October has brought opportunistic drilling windows for some. For those who haven’t, drilling barley into November can be risky but you do hear of people who do, with some success, if seedbed conditions are favourable.

The graph below shows a seed rate trial we did with our candidate hybrid barley, Inys, drilled on the 7th November with the crop yielding best at the highest seed rate of 230 seeds per m<sup>2</sup>. It may be worth noting that a pack of hybrid barley sown at 200 seeds per m<sup>2</sup> covers 5Ha so increasing the seed rate when drilling later will reduce the amount of Ha’s covered by that pack.



## Hybrid Rye

As with hybrid barley, hopefully most rye crops are in the ground and coming up, if drilling into November then our recommendation would be to increase seed rates to 300+ seeds per m2. Another consideration, if drilling late in a low weed pressure scenario, may be worth applying either a very light pre em or none at all. Rye needs to be drilled shallower than other cereals (2-3cm depth) and having a hot pre em mixture may slow the crop development down, leaving a weaker plant making it more susceptible to slugs and adverse weather conditions”



Thanks for reading!

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



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Product Development Field - Fowlmere

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