

BREEDERS DIGEST

Crop, variety and seed news for agronomists

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Six-row barley – hands on harvesting tips

There's little doubting the extra yield and quality of modern six-row barley varieties. And with a little attention at harvest, quality can be even better.



Harvesting advice now available on the NFC website

FARMER interest in six-row winter barley has rocketed recently. Industry figures suggest a three-fold increase in six-row market share since the start of the decade.

Higher yields of modern six-rows are an obvious reason. But grain quality of these latest feed varieties has escalated too.

What's more, with a little attention to detail at harvest, quality can be safeguarded even further – helping achieve and surpass the 63 kg/hl specific weight threshold that buyers want.

To help get the best from six-rows, NFC has researched optimum combine harvester settings with a range of key manufacturers. A short checklist is included here, but to access the full details, simply log on to the NFC website at www.newfarmcrops.co.uk

Harvesting checklist

Fuller details at: www.newfarmcrops.co.uk

- **Don't harvest too early**
It might be tempting (especially with large areas). But if crops aren't fully ripe, awns may not detach evenly – resulting in lower specific weights
- **Ensure the combine is fit**
Has it been serviced? Drums and concaves need to be in good condition
- **Check threshing**
Effective threshing comes from the right combination of concave gap, drum speed in relation to forward speed and de-awning bars (the latter helping delay grain falling through the concave, so it is threshed a little longer). Take time to set up all these parameters. But don't be too aggressive – harder threshing can damage grain and straw
- **Check combine cleaning**
Check that grain pans beneath concaves are clean. Their efficient movement aids the separation of light chaff to the top of grain – helping with its later removal by the fans. Also set fans to ensure air blows efficiently through grain as it falls onto the sieves, and set sieve sizes to their optimum



Why grow hybrid barley?

Want the benefits of winter barley in rotations but desperate for extra margin? Hybrid barley could be for you.

With unbeatable UK treated yields of 110% on the HGCA Recommended List 2005/06, or 112% in the West region and 111% in the North, it's like adding up to 0.96 t/ha to barley output compared with the control mean. That's almost an extra £60/ha.

Better still, thanks to new simplified access, it's now possible to purchase Colossus seed – combined with agronomic know-how to help get the best from it – while having flexibility to purchase crop protection inputs, separately, as and when required.

Hybrid barley

- **Outstanding yields!**
- Excellent vigour and early maturity
- Track record on over 6000 ha
- Yields of over 10 t/ha on-farm
- Viable alternative to second wheat
- Maintains barley's rotational benefits
- Available with proven agronomic advice

New winter OSR varieties

Five new winter oilseed rape varieties have been introduced to the HGCA Recommended List 2005/06 providing growers with an opportunity to further exploit yield potential and treat rape as a managed crop rather than a mere break. And two of those new varieties, NKBravour and NKVictory have been bred by NK bringing its total share on the List to 30%.

While yield remains number one when it comes to variety selection, those varieties which lend themselves to ease of harvest management are commanding interest. Both new NK varieties are not only stiff and shorter than Winner, but they also equal or exceed the established variety's yield.

Oil content is also creating a buzz this season. Growers need to be aware that oil content is delivered largely by the variety's genetics and the environment the crop is grown in. In comparison, seed yield is influenced by crop management and the season, and it's those factors which lend agronomists and growers more control over the higher seed yield offered by NKBravour than that of Lioness. For further details on variety choice see

www.oilseedrape.com

Hard working sugar beet for tough times

With the economics of growing sugar beet in the UK under scrutiny as never before, making the best possible returns from your crop is more crucial than ever.

Hilleshog has been providing the British grower with profitable and reliable sugar beet seed for nearly eighty years. At this difficult time, there is no let-up in our drive to bring you new varieties to improve productivity and profitability. With two big newcomers to our portfolio for 2006, there are now Hilleshog varieties to suit every need. For further information please visit www.sugarbeet.co.uk

BUXOM – the beet with big assets

- The highest sugar yield of all available conventional varieties
- Clearly outperforms all the current market leaders for adjusted tonnes, sugar yield and root yield

SPRINTER – the pace setting sweeter N-type

- The top performing new conventional variety in 2004 official trials
- The best establishment available
- Outstanding bolting resistance

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