

# BREEDERS DIGEST

Crop, variety and seed news for agronomists

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## 'Duxford effect' the ideal option this autumn

Arable farmers have a major new winter wheat variety available to sow this autumn – one that's high-yielding with very stiff straw and is also suitable for drilling from mid-September onwards (see below).



High yields plus stiff straw make DUXFORD an ideal winter wheat option this autumn

WITH a treated yield of 106% on the HGCA Recommended List 2008/09, DUXFORD winter wheat is already an attractive option.

But combine that with its impressive standing power – a maximum nine for resistance to lodging with PGR on the same list – plus suitability for drilling from mid-September onwards for England and the end of September for northern England and Scotland, and it stacks up as an even more attractive option this year.

"With more wheat planted but only a finite window for harvesting, it is increasingly important that growers have crops which not only yield well but also remain standing," says Samantha Smith of Syngenta Seeds.

"Similarly, reliable second wheat performance is also key. These are all areas where DUXFORD excels.

"It also offers a balanced resistance profile to all the main fungal diseases – with resistance ratings all at five or above.

"This year's rain-affected harvest could create knock-on drilling delays for many growers. So it is also reassuring that DUXFORD can be drilled from mid-September depending on location, through October and November and into December, as conditions allow."



### Performance

- UK treated yield 106%\* – equivalent to 10.7 t/ha
- The highest second wheat treated yield figure on the HGCA Recommended List 2008/09\*
- Very stiff straw

\* Data from the HGCA Recommended Lists database, full database at [www.hgca.com](http://www.hgca.com)

### Growth habit

- High tillering variety
- Fast developing variety

### Drilling date

Suitable for drilling mid-September onwards for England and the end of September for northern England and Scotland

### Seed rates

Seed rates are dependent on soil conditions, rotation and time of drilling. The more difficult the environment, the higher the seed rate needs to be to compensate for potential plant loss. Suggested seeds per square metre are shown below.

- Mid-September to Mid-October: 220-275 seeds/m<sup>2</sup>
- Mid-October onwards: 275-300 seeds/m<sup>2</sup>

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# Barley benefits from strong harvest performance

Strong performance from winter barley in official trials this harvest means several key varieties have retained their all-important multi-year mean yield.

“Hybrid barley in particular has performed very well this year,” explains Robert Hiles of Syngenta Seeds. With the new hybrid VOLUME especially standing out.

“Like the other latest generation hybrids BOOST and BRONX, VOLUME has the same ‘core hybrid values’ – such as high yield coupled with high specific weight; vigorous growth; early maturity for timely harvesting; and improved disease resistance.

“However the difference with VOLUME is that it takes hybrid yields to an even greater level.

“Currently a candidate variety, it has the highest treated yield of all the winter barley varieties on the HGCA Candidate Table. At 112%, this is a massive 12% more than the mean treated yield of the control varieties. If you take the mean control variety yield as 8.5 t/ha, this 12% equates to over 1 t/ha.

“Its launch has been specially fast-tracked to make seed available a year earlier than normal. It is due to be considered for HGCA Recommendation later this year.”

Also on the HGCA Candidate Table, the specific weight of VOLUME at 68.4 kg/hl is well above the traditional 63 kg/hl which feed buyers look for, so it should give a high safety margin for growers looking to sell grain off farm. Meanwhile, disease resistance ratings of eight against the difficult diseases of *Rhynchosporium* and net blotch, seven against brown rust, plus resistance to BaYMV, mean Volume offers a very robust all-round profile, he adds.

“Overall, winter barley growers should specialise in growing either malting or feed varieties.

“FLAGON satisfies the yield, quality and maturity requirements. Importantly, it is well-liked by end users and has full IBD approval for brewing. But if you’re a feed grower, then hybrid technology can meet these needs.

“Where winter barley drilling is late after the delayed wheat harvest this year, hybrid barley could again be a good choice because its hybrid vigour helps it establish quickly even in not-so-warm conditions. The important thing is that hybrid barley should be drilled in a firm, moist seedbed, rather than maulled in to wet seedbeds. Seed rate must also be correct.”

The significant yield advantages of hybrids will prompt a number of growers to sow them this season. However, for those who aren’t yet ready to make the switch, the conventional varieties SEQUEL and SUZUKA have also delivered a solid performance this year.



## Performance

Treated yield 112%\*

## Agronomy

- Early maturity
- Excellent specific weight at 68.4 kg/hl\*
- Excellent disease resistance – including 8 ratings against *Rhynchosporium* and net blotch and resistance to BaYMV\*

\* Data from HGCA Candidate Table, see [www.hgca.com](http://www.hgca.com)

## Seed rates

Hybrid barley is drilled at lower seed rates than conventional varieties to maximise the potential of hybrid vigour

- September to mid-October (England) ~ 200 seeds/m<sup>2</sup>
- Mid-October onwards and Scotland ~ 220 seeds/m<sup>2</sup>

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