



GrainCo
seed special

2017 edition

www.grainco.co.uk

The North of England & Scotland's leading farmer-owned grain and seed marketing business

**Quality comes as
standard!**

Insiders view on KWS Barrel,
Costello and LG Motown

• Farmer Profiles • Spotlight on Seed Treatments • Variety Guides •

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Welcome

Welcome to our new season **Seeds Special**, one which we hope you will find both interesting, informative and importantly a useful tool in helping you decide which varieties and seed treatments to consider on your farm this coming autumn.

We are very grateful to our suppliers for their support shown and indeed a special thank you must go to our customers and seed growers, Stephen Buckle, Charles Rook of R + J farms and Michael and Richard Suddes for their farm profiles, we hope you enjoy the read.

Gary Bright Managing Director.

Exciting times lay ahead for our Piercebridge based seed plant!

'It's great to be finally part of a dedicated arable business,' says our Piercebridge based seeds manager Peter Collins, 'and some of the thoughts and ideas put forward by Doug Gray, Grainco's Commercial Development Manager, to develop the plant across a wide range of crops are, indeed exciting.'

'Since the take-over on the 2nd August last year, it's been all hands to the pump as we grappled to incorporate a new business into an existing one, at what was the busiest time of the year and, all things considered it couldn't have gone any smoother,' says Peter.

With the take-over still fresh in our minds, we thought it would be nice to take a few moments to let you get to know our "new starters" a bit more.

Peter is now in his 39th year of working in agriculture, having started with what was then **Farmway** in 1978 and has been managing the seeds business for the past 16 years. Peter holds a **CPC in Road**

Haulage Operations and crucially for the business is a **Ministry Licensed Cereal Crop Inspector**, which allows him to inspect our own contracted seed crops.

Jane has been with the business for 26 years and is our Seed Analyst in Charge, Jane is pivotal to the successful running of the business, for without her skills and qualifications the plant simply couldn't work as effectively as it currently does. Remarkably Jane is one of only about 47 Analysts in the country and also heads up our **Ministry Licensed** laboratory.

Stephen has worked within the plant for the past 28 years, 16 of which have been as Production Manager and is supported in the day to day running of the plant by Andrew who joined the team three years ago. Both have as you would expect a raft of qualifications, which include being official **Ministry Licensed** seed samplers and both hold **PA11 CPC's** in Seed Treatment application.

Would you like a personal tour of the plant? If so please give us a call on 01325 728905, we would be delighted to show you around.

Thank you for your continued support.



Jane Greenwood, Seed Analyst in Charge and Peter Collins, Seed Plant Manager.



Left to right, Stephen Taylor, Production Manager and Andrew Dowson.

It's a FACT

Quality comes as Standard with Seed supplied from Grainco's Piercebridge Seed Plant.

As we now start to look forward to the forth coming autumn's plantings, we thought it would be timely to let our customers know of the seed standards our plant at Piercebridge achieved in 2016. Our customers can rest assured our efforts to maintain these standards will continue unabated.

As you will be able to see from the chart below, the official germination levels of both the wheat and barley crops that

we processed were well in excess of the HVS standard of 85%. It was very pleasing to be in the position to say that all of our seed was once again blackgrass free, something we know is an important consideration for all of our customers when they are looking to order their seed requirements.

One of the key factors in being able to continue to provide high quality seed year after year can be capsulated into one simple word and that is **control**.

All of our contracted seed crops are grown on farms, many of whom

have grown for us over many years in Cumbria, Co Durham, Northumberland, North and East Yorkshire, areas not noted for having black grass issues.

We have our own Ministry Licensed Cereal Crop Inspectors, Seed Analyst and laboratory, in addition we have our own bulk haulage fleet and crucially it goes without saying we own and operate our own seed plant, all of which enables us to be in control from beginning to end, something we are very proud of and long may it continue.

	EEC Minimum	HVS Standard	GrainCo Piercebridge Wheat - Autumn 2016	GrainCo Piercebridge Barley - Autumn 2016
Minimum Germination	85%	85%	95%	98%
Analytical Purity	98%	99%	99.9%	99.9%
Blackgrass Free	No	No	CLEAR	CLEAR

Wanted

.....
New Spring + Autumn Seed Growers Required
.....

Good Premiums Paid
.....

For more information please speak to **Peter Collins** on:
01325 728905 / 07957 819397

GrainCo Seed Testing Service

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As a fully licensed Ministry seed testing station, we can offer a wide range of laboratory tests for our customers which include,

- Full germination tests
- TGW
- Purity
- Hagberg falling number
- Grain nitrogen content
- Tetrazolium viability tests
- Moisture content
- Specific weight
- Protein content

Contact Jane Greenwood or Rebecca Parker on:
01325 728912 / 01325 728907

Harvest Work Available
within the Seed Plant
.....

July-Sept
.....

Please contact **Peter Collins** on:
07957 819397

KWS Barrel & KWS Siskin join KWS Lili & KWS Gator in delivering high yields and excellent quality for the North

Looking for a high-yielding winter wheat that performs strongly as both a first and second cereal? Then you need look no further than KWS Siskin and KWS Barrel.

Few varieties offer the combination of high yield, all-round disease resistance and the standing abilities of **KWS Siskin**, **KWS Lili** and **KWS Barrel**. Indeed they are the perfect complements to each other helping to spread the workload at drilling and harvest and such is their appeal, that they are already three of the most popular winter wheat introductions of recent years.

KWS cereal product manager Will Compson describes **KWS Barrel**, a Group 3 soft wheat, is one of the highest yielding varieties for the North and performs equally as well in a first and second wheat situation making it a truly versatile variety.

At 109% of controls its performance in the region is nothing short of outstanding.

“**KWS Barrel** sold out in its first year and is expected to do so again in 2017.

Interested growers should speak to their seed supplier soon to secure supplies,” says Will Compson.

A Viscount cross, it has short, stiff straw and big bold grain. It has mid maturity at +1 day compared with **KWS Siskin**. It has excellent yellow rust resistance (score of 8) along with Orange Wheat Blossom Midge (OWBM) resistance and respectable eyespot resistance.

“At 103% of controls in the second cereal position it is one of the best performing varieties on the **RL**. Its vigorous growth habit also makes it suitable for late sowing. It’s appeal to those in the North is obvious,” says Will Compson.

Delivering a yield of 106% of controls **KWS Barrel** is particularly at home on light soils where it is rarely out-performed.

“It’s a high-performing variety with fantastic potential, but its Septoria tritici score of 4.4 suggests it will need a robust fungicide programme,” he adds.

Another **RL** introduction from last year that has found favour with growers across the North is **KWS Siskin**. Its yield of 103% of controls and excellent resistance to yellow rust (score of 9) and Septoria tritici (6.8) are complemented by stiff straw and maturity equal to **JB Diego**. It offers something for every grower, says Will Compson.

“**KWS Siskin** is a top-line variety. It has exceptional yield potential supported by strong disease resistance. Its vigorous



GrainCo Sales Representative Colin Jewel (centre) pictured with Will Compson (left) KWS UK Cereal Product Manager and Mark Dodds KWS Wheat Breeder on a visit to their Offices at Thriplow nr Cambridge in April of this year.

habit makes it suited to the later drilling slot as opposed to its sister variety **KWS Lili**, which helps to spread the autumn workload, but is earlier to mature than its Group 2 counterpart which helps with the harvest workload," he says.

Added to the **RL** in 2016, **KWS Siskin** is now firmly established both on-farm and within the trade. For many it is the perfect counterpart to **KWS Lili**.

"**KWS Lili** however as we know is particularly well-suited to the North producing a yield of 104% of controls in the region. It has a good combination of disease resistance scores and has slightly stiffer straw. Its score of 7 for yellow rust and 5.9 for Septoria put it among the best on the **RL**."

Although a year ahead to market than **KWS Siskin**, growers should not think of the latter as a replacement for **KWS Lili**. The two are a great combination, he says.

"Being slightly later to mature at +2 days compared with **KWS Siskin**, it helps to spread harvest workload while giving that reassurance that quality won't be lost if spring barley or milling wheat needs to take priority," adds Will Compson.

So, how else do **KWS Siskin** and **KWS Lili** differ in the field? "**KWS Lili** does best as a first wheat, while **KWS Siskin** performs equally well as either a first or second cereal. **KWS Siskin** has better all-round disease resistance and is well-suited to drilling through to the end of October while **KWS Lili** is the best when sown early.

"Both are well-suited to a range of soil types though **KWS Lili** does best on light land and **KWS Siskin** has delivered its best performance on heavy land," says Will Compson

"**KWS Lili** and **KWS Barrel** are in many ways similar varieties, but with different end-markets. While they offer similar yield, maturity and disease resistance, **KWS Lili** is a Group 2 with good flour quality while **KWS Barrel** is a Group 3 soft wheat well-suited to biscuit making and other soft-wheat markets," adds Will Compson.

KWS GATOR: THE RELIABLE SECOND WHEAT

With a northern yield in 2016 of 104% of controls, it's understandable why this variety remains a favourite across our region and is still delivering the goods,

especially in the second wheat position where its reliability has earned it a loyal following.

"**KWS Gator** is a true second wheat and should be the variety of choice in this drilling slot where its aggressive, competitive nature comes to the fore," says Will Compson.

"It has moderate winter dormancy with great tillering ability and tiller retention. Combine this with its OWBM resistance, the ability to produce a big, bold grain and comes with twin 8s for standing, **KWS Gator** really delivers in this difficult rotational position," he adds.

The variety will benefit from a good fungicide programme and Will Compson describes it as similar to **KWS Barrel** in its maturity, standing ability, but is better suited to heavier soils and late drilling.

As commodity prices remain under pressure for yet another year, yield is crucial. All four varieties have the potential to deliver excellent performance, but disease scores can only achieve so much. Fungicides perform an essential role in keeping canopies clean and healthy so rates and timings should be maintained where possible.

Where will you grow yours?

Market opportunities	nabim Group ukp/uks	Group 2 ukp	Group 2 ukp	Group 3 uks	Group 4 n/a
Feed wheat yield	102	103	103	100	
Rotational position	Sowing from 10th September	*****	✓	✓	✓
	Sowing from 15th September	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Sowing from 20th September	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Late sown	***	*****	***	*****
	First wheat yield	*****	*****	*****	***
Second wheat yield	***	****	****	*****	****
Light land yield	*****	****	****	*****	*****
Heavy land yield	****	****	****	***	****
Earliness to harvest	**	***	***	***	***
Regional performance	East yield	***	*****	****	****
	North yield	*****	***	*****	*****
Agronomics and Disease	Standing	*****	***	*****	*****
	Septoria tritici	****	*****	**	***
	Yellow rust	***	*****	*****	****
Untreated yield	***	****	****	***	***

Farmer focus: Michael and son Richard Suddes from Northumberland



Introducing Father and Son, Michael and Richard Suddes from Colwell nr Hexham

The family have farmed at Well House since 1956 and between us we farm just over 1000 acres, the majority being here at Colwell, along with a further 150 acres further south near the hamlet of Broomley.

Arable is our main enterprise and we have to contend with a wide range of soil types which vary from light to heavy clay. We use grass and oilseed rape as a break between wheat, oats and barley crops. The farm is in an Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) agreement though we are hoping to get into the new mid-tier agreement to make use of field-margins and increase the amount of hedgerows.

Richard farms 200 acres in his own right, this was taken on two years ago as a 15 year FBT and was initially all arable but he is in the process of reseeded it all with grass, 150 acres is already fenced and being grazed by some of his flock of 1,000 ewes. The ewes which he runs are mules out of the Swaledale ewe, these are put to the Texel Tup and are housed for the winter, lambing indoors in mid-March. As many lambs as possible are sold

finished by mid-August and the remainder are sold as stores at that time.

The home farm is also in the process of being fenced, using three year grass and red clover leys to help increase organic matter, fertility and for grass weed control, especially brome; an arrangement is made to graze it with Richard's sheep. At present all the Oil Seed Rape is high Euric on contract but we are looking to reduce our reliance on it as a break crop by using grass. We also grow a small amount of oats as a break because of its ability not to carry Take-all into the following wheat crop, however we do find price volatility and movement off the farm to be a problem. We have some Zero 4 peas going into the ground this spring, hopefully it will be a good break and it will meet some of our EFA requirements. We will see how that goes (though no doubt the pigeons will enjoy them!).

All of the cereal seed has been purchased in recent years from the Seed plant based at Piercebridge nr Darlington via Seeds Manager Peter Collins. We aim to be drilled up by the end of September for experience tells us that we don't tend to achieve good yields from later drillings, therefore being able to

sow early and get a good establishment before the autumn rains come is important for us.

It's important to our business that we are constantly kept in the loop regarding delivery so we can accurately plan our working day. There is nothing more frustrating than having land worked, the sun shining, but no seed in the store, so we are grateful to Peter for ensuring this scenario is a thing of the past.

In terms of wheat varieties, we currently have **Grafton** and **KWS Lili** in the ground. **Grafton** gives us the ability to drill early and of course it's very early to harvest which is a key consideration for us bearing in mind our location. On Peter's recommendation we have introduced **KWS Lili** for the first time, not only for its early drilling potential, but for its combination of good grain quality, disease resistance and hopefully big yields!

We have tried hybrid barleys in the past; however we have found no increase in margin due to the high growing costs and the lack of quality in the harvested grain. Therefore we have in recent years have drilled **KWS Glacier** and **KWS Tower** which both perform well for us. Peter wants us to look at another two-row from the same stable called **KWS Orwell** this autumn, with a view to switching across from **KWS Glacier** in 2018.

The vast majority of our grain is dried and stored on the farm with just contractors being used for baling. The straw is then stored and consequently delivered by ourselves on our own wagon to farmers in Cumbria over the winter.

Going forward Brexit is probably our biggest concern, as it is to everyone. The sooner we know all the details the better.

LG Motown – a serious contender as a successor for Revelation in the North

LG Motown is an exciting, new high yielding, soft feed winter wheat, added to the AHDB Recommended List 2017/18. The variety offers very good agronomic and genetic attributes, considered of high importance by growers in today's cereal growing climate.

The variety has shown good yield potential in both treated and untreated trials, across both regional and seasonal databases. **LG Motown** exhibits a very good disease resistance profile; similar to **Revelation** for both rusts, mildew and Septoria tritici, which ensures security of performance – highlighted in the varieties high untreated yield potential.

The key agronomic attribute of **LG Motown** is its earlier ripening; a key characteristic recognised by growers, especially in the North. Many northern growers considered varieties such as **Leeds**, **KWS Santiago**, **Evolution** and **Revelation**, with later maturity ratings.

Rob Granger, Arable Technical Manager, Limagrain UK.



This was a concern because these varieties are later maturing than varieties grown historically. Growing **LG Motown** in conjunction with later maturing varieties will enable a spread of maturity on farm for the harvest period. This should reduce the risk of grain deterioration which is associated with the more erratic weather patterns of the North.

LG Motown is a shorter strawed variety which has a similar straw standing rating to many of the commercial feed wheats, when treated with PGR. The variety offers agronomic characteristics of good tillering combined with a prostrate winter habit and a quicker spring growth, which may account for the variety's good performance on lighter soils as well as in the later drilling scenario.

Limited second wheat trials would suggest that **LG Motown** performs well in a second wheat situation;

comparable to or better than many varieties on the **AHDB Recommended List 2017/18**.

LG Motown should not be considered for the early drilling situation, as limited trials data would suggest a drilling date of mid–September more suitable. Growers wanting to drill in the early situation, predominantly in the North, should still continue to use **Claire**, **Alchemy** or **Revelation**; varieties with proven performance in this very testing environment.

LG Motown also carries genetic resistance for OWBM – another benefit recognized by growers for securing maximum yield potential, in light of the losses of and restrictions on current insecticide products.

LG Motown has good grain attributes and offers additional distilling market opportunities over standard feed wheat varieties; a valuable proposition in today's marketplace, especially for growers in the North with both bioethanol and distilling markets available.

In summary, **LG Motown** offers growers in the North a variety with a similar disease resistance to **Revelation** (when Eyespot is not considered), plus the additional characteristics of early maturity and OWBM. Midge resistance and early maturity are genetic traits that are not present in **Revelation**, which has been very successful on farm and continues to be a favourite with many growers. We believe **LG Motown** is very much an improved **Revelation**.

Ron Granger,
Arable Technical Manager,
Limagrain UK

Autumn 2017 availability list

With a total of 56 fully recommended winter wheat and barley varieties on the new 2017/18 AHDB Recommended List, it is simply impossible to produce even 50% of them during that tight time frame we know exists around the autumn drilling season.

Therefore we have selected the following varieties which we believe will cover most of our customers' requirements for processing at our Piercebridge Plant, all of which are treated as standard with the market leading Redigo Pro single purpose seed dressing from Bayer.

Additional seed treatments are available which include, Redigo Deter, Radiate, Latitude, New Manganese Solution and Vibrance Duo, please see pages 17-19 for further details.

However don't worry if your preferred variety is not shown below, for as always we can supply most, if not all of the varieties on the Recommended List.

Winter Wheat

COSTELLO	KWS LILI
DICKENS	KWS SISKIN
GRAFTON	LG MOTOWN
GRAHAM	RELAY
JB DIEGO	REVELATION
KWS BARREL	KWS ZYATT
KWS GATOR	

*Please enquire regards to over wintered seed availability

Winter Barley

Two-row	
KWS CASSIA	KWS GLACIER
KWS ORWELL	KWS TOWER
Conventional Six-row	
KWS FUNKY	

Hybrids (direct from breeder)

BAZOOKA	SUNNINGDALE
BELFRY	VOLUME




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STRONGER ROOTS, HIGHER YIELDS

SEEDS DO BETTER WITH THE RADIATE ADVANTAGE

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For cereals and oilseed rape.

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DE SANGOSSE

Which variety, which rotational slot and which seed treatment?

Many varieties are able to be drilled over a wide range of soil types and rotational slots, based on the information given in the 2017/18 AHDB Recommended List, we have tried to very briefly summarize the best rotational slot for the varieties currently scheduled for production via our own Piercebridge based seed plant.

As is always the case if you have any concerns or questions please speak to your advisor to discuss your own on farm situation in more detail.

- **Looking to drill early i.e. 1st week September onwards?**

Grafton	KWS Lili	Revelation
	Costello	

- **Top 1st Wheats**

KWS Lili	KWS Siskin	KWS Barrel
Graham	LG Motown	Costello

- **Top 2nd Wheats**

KWS Gator	KWS Zyatt	KWS Barrel
KWS Siskin	JB Diego	Dickens
	Relay	

- **Looking for a variety that offers early maturity?**

Grafton	LG Motown	Graham
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- **Looking for a variety that offers exceptional high untreated yields?**

KWS Zyatt	LG Motown	KWS Siskin
Graham	Costello	

- **Looking for a seed treatment as an aid to help reduce seed hollowing by slugs and the BYDV carried by Aphids in early drilled and first wheats following osr?**

Redigo Deter

- **Looking for a seed treatment to help reduce take-all in 2nd and 3rd wheats?**

Latitude

- **Looking for a seed treatment that can be co-applied to help with crop establishment and increased root mass?**

New Manganese Solution
Radiate



FAQ'S

- **When should I order my barley seed?** It's vitally important that our customers help us by ordering their barley seed in good time, ideally by the 21st August in order to ensure that their orders can be produced and importantly delivered to their farm before we switch onto wheat production. In a difficult season it can be a challenge to get back onto barleys before the 25th September, so please order your barley requirements early.

- **When do you expect to start processing your wheat varieties and which ones would you expect to be first into the plant?** Based on previous experience and with the weather being the critical factor, we would expect it to be around the 25th August. Historically Grafton is normally the first into the plant and due to its location and early maturity, LG Motown we would expect to be next followed by KWS Lili.

- **Why do I sometimes get my second wheats before my first wheats?** We always aim to process the perceived early drillers and first wheats before the seconds for obvious reasons. However we are often held to ransom by local weather conditions and in a time critical season we have to process whichever variety physically comes available, however frustrating at times that can be!

- **How do you minimize the risk of blackgrass contamination in your seed?** Our own Ministry Licensed Crop Inspectors inspect our own contracted seed crops, which are grown in Cumbria, Northumberland, Co. Durham, North Yorkshire and East Yorkshire, areas not noted for their black grass issues.

In 2015 we rejected several load sourced from within the trade due to black grass contamination.

We are pleased to say that once again In 2016, our seed was black grass free, rest assured our vigilance against this invasive weed will continue.

Autumn wheat variety comments

Variety	Breeder		UK Yield	North Yield
COSTELLO	UK Agent – Senova	Timaru x W151	101%	99%

Group 4 Hard – This versatile stiff, short strawed variety offers growers consistent yields coupled with exceptional grain quality across all soil types and rotational slots. In addition it comes with one of the best set of disease ratings available, including a 9 for YR and a 6 for Septoria tritici. Provisional data from AHDB indicates it may also be suitable for early drilling.

DICKENS	Secobra	Equinox x Charger x Defender	102%	104%
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Group 4 Hard – A very versatile variety that performs consistently well in the northern region and is at home in either rotational slot. Good grain quality with medium height stiff straw and has a solid set of disease ratings including a 9 rating for YR, however its Septoria score is on the low side.

GRAFTON	KWS	Cordiale x W07	99%	100%
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Group 4 Hard – This niche variety is one of the earliest to harvest and can be drilled from the 1st September in our region. It offers a combination of very good grain quality coupled with short very stiff straw. A shy tiller, growers should ideally look to increase seed rates by an additional 50 seeds per square metre.

GRAHAM	Syngenta	Primo x Expert	104%	100%
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Group 4 Hard – Performing best in the first wheat slot, this stiff strawed variety has an 8 rating for YR and an impressive 6.7 rating for Septoria tritici giving the variety one of the best untreated yields available. It performs best on heavy land and is suitable for early drilling and importantly is also early to mature. Best suited to the south of our region.

JB DIEGO	UK Agent – Senova	3351B2 X Str2374	100%	100%
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Group 4 Hard – First recommended in 2008, this varieties yield has never varied in official trials by more than 1% and the variety was still the 2nd biggest selling variety in 2016. First wheat, second wheat, light or heavy land with very good grain quality, this variety is a proven performer on farm. New varieties are now available however that can offer improved yield and better disease ratings.

KWS BARRELL	KWS	Viscount x Bantam	103%	109%
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Group 3 Soft / OWBM Resistant – This variety sold out in 2016 and is expected to do so once again, due in no part to its exceptional northern yield which is repeated for the 2nd year in a row and which must make it a serious contender to be grown on most of our farms.

Short, with exceptionally stiff straw, it performs equally as well in a 1st or 2nd wheat situation, indeed its performance on light land is rarely beaten. It offers good all round grain characteristics and comes with built in resistance to OWBM. Its disease resistance profile includes an 8 for YR, however it only scores 4.4 for Septoria.

KWS GATOR	KWS	Oakley x W89	100%	104%
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Group 4 Hard / OWBM Resistant – This variety once again sold out in 2016 and consequently has become the second wheat of choice on many farms in our region where it has proved itself to be very consistent. Best drilled from mid-late September where its aggressive competitive nature really comes to the fore. This medium height variety has exceptionally stiff straw scoring twin 8's in trials and comes with OWBM resistance. It's susceptible to BR where it only scores a 3.

KWS LILI	KWS	Horizon x Cordiale x Timaru	102%	104%
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Group 2 – This variety was in huge demand last autumn and is particularly well-suited to the Northern region where it can be drilled early and fits that first wheat slot perfectly. In official trials over the past 3 years the variety has remained incredibly consistent. It offers growers good all round grain characteristics, it tillers well and has short, stiff straw. It comes with a good combination of disease resistance scores, indeed its score of 7 for yellow rust and 5.9 for Septoria put it among the best on the RL.”

Autumn wheat variety comments

Variety	Breeder	UK Yield	North Yield
KWS SISKIN	KWS	103%	101%

Group 2 – This variety sold out in its first full year of recommendation, due in no small part to its top rated disease resistance ratings, in fact it had the highest untreated yield of any recommended variety. Ratings of 9's for both mildew and YR and a score of 6.8 for Septoria will catch the eye again this season.

The variety has very good grain quality and performs across all soil types and all rotational positions, not quite as stiff as its sister variety **KWS Lili** but earlier to mature, its best drilled from mid September onwards where its vigorous growth habit comes to the fore.

Trade predictions suggest this could well be the NO 1 selling variety in 2017.

LG MOTOWN	LG	Bantam x Hunter x Denman	103%	104%
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Group 4 Soft / OWBM Resistant – One of six new soft wheats added to the recommended list and at -1 for maturity, the earliest of them all, making it an ideal candidate to be considered for northern growers.

Its yield is 5% above **Revelation** and substantially earlier to mature and with the exception of eyespot, it has a superb set of disease resistance ratings including a 9 for YR. As a result its untreated yield is one of the best available; indeed it beats **KWS Siskin** in that regard.

A short strawed variety that is best suited to that first wheat slot, however data seems to suggest it performs equally as well as a second wheat. Its performance on light land is exceptional and it comes with the added bonus of OWBM resistance and is best suited to the traditional mid–September onwards drilling slot.

RELAY	RAGT	Gladiator x Vector	98%	100%
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Group 4 Soft – This **Gladiator** cross has remained remarkably robust in terms of its disease resistance ratings with scores of 8 for YR and 6.4 for Septoria tritici and offers growers good all round grain characteristics. A short stiff strawed variety that is equally at home when drilled as a 1st or 2nd wheat across all soil types, a solid performer. It is now starting to become outclassed however, as newer higher yielding varieties become available.

REVELATION	Limagrain	Alchemy x Claire x Shepherd	98%	100%
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Group 4 Soft – A medium height variety which has very stiff straw and offers growers good grain characteristics, coupled with excellent disease resistance ratings which include a score of 9 for YR and 8 for eyespot. Suitable for drilling from early September onwards, however growers should be aware of its later maturity.

KWS ZYATT	KWS	Hereford x Quartz	102%	102%
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Group 1 – This new variety is the UK's highest yielding Group 1 breadmaking wheat, however its northern performance is slightly behind that of the UK's biggest selling variety **Skyfall**.

It has excellent grain quality, short stiff straw and one of the highest untreated yields available, this is further highlighted by its Pch1 eyespot resistance which may go some way to explaining its excellent second wheat performance.



Farmer focus: R & J Farms of East Yorkshire



Meet Charles Rook Seed Grower For GrainCo, amongst many other things!

R & J Farms is a family run business running from the Yorkshire Wolds to the Vale of York, comprising of myself, brother Edward, father Robert and Uncle John as well as 7 full time and 12 part time staff. We have a diverse spread of enterprises on the farm which comprises of 830ha of land, mostly owned, but a proportion on FBT's and contract farming agreements.

Combinable crops account for 450ha, 80ha potatoes, 80ha vining peas, 35ha of forage crops (Fodder beet and maize) and 200ha grass. The livestock enterprises include a pure breed Stabiliser suckler herd of 200 animals, which are either kept for replacements, sold for breeding or fattened alongside a 300 head beef fattening unit.

A 40,000 bird duck fattening enterprise provides 6 crops a year for **Faccenda**

Foods at Caistor, 35,000 free range laying hens and 50,000 enriched colony laying hens producing eggs for **Chippindale Foods** at Harrogate. The manure from all these livestock units provides very useful fertiliser and organic matter for the arable enterprises and working alongside the **Yara N Sensor**, we have seen consistent yield increases over the last 5 years.

We are currently in the **ELS** and **HLS** schemes with buffer strips, wild bird mixes, field corner management, pond management and low input grassland just a few of the habitats that we have created within the arable enterprise. Coupled with planting over 10ac of woodland and creating a bee habitat on our free range chicken unit we have seen improving numbers of insect and bird species and when the **Bumble Bee Conservation Trust** undertook a survey last year they found 5 different species of bee.

Rotation consists of potatoes, two wheats, oilseed rape, two wheats and then vining peas on the wold land and on the sand land in the Vale of York potatoes, spring/winter barley, sugar beet and maize make up the rotation. The maize is fed to the 300 beef cattle along with any excess beet. We are, for the first time since the York beet factory shut growing sugar beet for **British Sugar**, previous beet growing was done to supply a local AD plant.

Cereals are generally sown after ploughing with minimal cultivation used after potatoes and on a small acreage of heavy land. We generally start drilling on the 10th September with **Revelation** due to its later ripening and will keep going until late October early November after potatoes and maize if conditions allow. Varieties consist of **Lili, Dickens, Graham** and **Relay** in the second wheat slot, which was the first seed variety we grew for seed some 10 years ago. Grain is stored in variety specific sheds after passing through our continuous flow drier and rotary cleaner. This enables us to get a good quality, clean, dry sample, making marketing a lot easier.

Seed is segregated once it has been through the drier and is generally moved to the seed plant at Piercebridge from late August to early September. The seed department and Peter Collins recognise the need to move the seed as quickly as possible; over the years we have built up a good trusting relationship which is important to me and the business and I haven't been let down yet!

Costello shows its worth with disease resistance

The news that Senova's hard Group 4 winter wheat, Costello, has maintained its good resistance to yellow rust puts it in a different league to other feed varieties.

Now one of only three recommended wheat varieties with both seedling and adult plant resistance to yellow rust, it adds this sought-after characteristic to good resistance ratings for other diseases and some of the best grain quality of any variety on the AHDB Recommended List.

That combination explains why it has found a place on farms looking for consistent yield and quality performance together with some end market flexibility, but without the need for a high fungicide spend or additional management time.

"Costello is the type of variety that appeals to growers, as it has in-built risk management and premium-earning potential," explains Jeremy Taylor, commercial director at Senova.

"It doesn't need to be sprayed first, monitored constantly or given preferential treatment at busy times of year. It is less reliant on the chemical can than others."

As such, Costello offers scope to make savings, either with the type and frequency of fungicide products used, or the amount that has to be spent on it, he notes.

After 2016 proved to be an exceptional year for yellow rust, with very high levels of the disease being recorded and new races being identified, changes had to be made to varietal

resistance ratings to reflect their true susceptibility to the disease.

This resulted in a drop of two points or more for some varieties, as the new yellow rust races caused a change in their virulence profile and higher-than-expected levels of disease.

While more than half of the 36 recommended varieties have good adult plant resistance, only three of these were found to be also resistant at the seedling stage. Costello is in this elite group, with a 9 rating for yellow rust.

"The difficulty with just having adult plant resistance is that it is hard to know when it is going to kick in, or how much yield is being lost by early infections," says Mr Taylor.

"The very few varieties with good all-round resistance don't have this problem, as they don't get yellow rust in the early part of the season."

Already taking 5% market share, Costello is a good choice for growers looking to complement their JB Diego

acreage, as there is no need to sacrifice the grain quality advantage that both Senova varieties offer.

"Costello's specific weight is the highest of all the varieties on the Recommended List, at 80.1kg/hl," continues Mr Taylor.

"It also has short, stiff straw and similar maturity."

Jeremy Taylor, Commercial Director, Senova UK Ltd.



RECOMMENDED
AHDB

Costello

WINTER WHEAT

No.1 for grain quality

Chosen for its outstanding grain quality, Group 4 variety Costello also brings excellent yields, the highest specific weight on the RL, superb disease resistance and stiff straw. It will reduce your risk and enhance your profit.

senova

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KWS Orwell offers higher yields with better straw stiffness



David Harrap, Senior Barley Breeder, KWS.

Growers in search of a high-yielding winter barley with excellent straw strength should consider KWS Orwell.

As the highest yielding two-row feed on the 2017–18 RL it is ahead of both **KWS Tower** and **KWS Cassia** while its strong agronomic credentials and impressive disease resistance make it the obvious choice for those looking for a new variety with exciting potential.

Its medium height, stiff straw and consistent grain yields make **KWS Orwell** well-suited to those with mixed farms or with more fertile soils, says Will Compson, KWS cereal product manager.

“Disease resistance is generally sound with the exception of mildew, though this is easily controlled with an appropriate mildewicide.

The natural successor to **KWS Tower** and **KWS Cassia** it improves on the latter with earlier ear emergence, but similar maturity, explains David Harrap, KWS barley breeder.

“With **KWS Orwell** we have maintained the maturity date of **KWS Cassia** but

brought forward the ear emergence date by about two days. This gives us an increased grain fill period and a yield improvement across the country of about 5%, without any delay in harvest,” he says.

“**KWS Orwell** delivers a step up in straw strength and yield over existing 2-row feed varieties. It yields 3% higher than **KWS Cassia** in the North and is the leading 2-row feed variety,” David Harrap adds.

Winter barley tends to perform better when drilled early and **KWS Orwell** is no exception.

“The best barley yields will come from a crop producing a high number of tillers in the autumn and so we’d like to see growers get the crop into the ground in reasonable time and ensure it goes into the winter well,” he says.

“Growers should look for a target ear count of 1000 heads per sq m. Drilling in late-September, in good conditions, you’ll need to use around 250–275 seeds sq m and to utilise a BYDV seed treatment, such as **Deter**. Rates will need to be higher if conditions are poor or at higher altitudes.

“The aim is to produce the biggest, most robust, plants prior to winter. This gives them every opportunity to put down a good root system and pile on the yield in the summer.”

“A three spray T0 to T2 fungicide programme would help build the very high yields it is capable of, but most will stick with T1–T2 timings. PGRs should be applied early to help strengthen and maintain tillers, but it is worth noting that



later applications should be timed carefully as dry conditions at application can intensify plant stress,” adds David Harrap.

If growers are to achieve the higher yields modern two-rows are capable of, KWS believes nitrogen applications should be increased above what might be traditional practice.

“Varieties such as **KWS Tower** and **KWS Glacier** have helped push official trial yields up by between 0.5–0.75t/ha over the last 10 years and **KWS Orwell** has been shown to be a step on in yield, but nitrogen rates must be matched to output,” says Will Compson.

“In contrast, advances in wheats have slowed and this makes barley a more tenable proposition, particularly in the second cereal slot. With higher yields, lower variable costs and a range of highly effective fungicide chemistry available in winter barley, there’s plenty to be gained,” he adds.

Winter barley variety comments

Variety	Breeder		UK Yield	North Yield
KWS CASSIA	KWS	Carat x Saffron	99%	101%

Two Row – First recommended in 2010 this variety was still the third most popular two-row variety nationally last season and accordingly still has a large following within our trading area. Medium tall with very stiff straw and the best specific weight of any barley variety on the new **2017/18 Recommended List**, something that was repeated in our own processing plant last autumn, this variety is equally at home on both light and heavy soil types.

KWS GLACIER	KWS	Cassia x Retriever	102%	103%
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Two Row – The second most popular two-row variety in 2016, taking a 18% market share. Shorter than the other listed two-rows, the variety has an excellent specific weight producing a large bold grain and performs equally as well on light or heavy soils. Some farmers have commented that in some situations the variety has had a tendency to brackle.

KWS ORWELL	KWS	KWS Tower x Salsa	104%	104%
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Two Row – The first of the **Tower** x's, this variety sold out in its first year of recommendation and was the top performing two-row at the **NIAB TAGG** site at Croft nr Darlington.

At 104% controls, a full 5% above **KWS Cassia**, it sits top of the RL for two-row feed varieties and is incredibly consistent across all regions of the UK. It's stiffer strawed than both **Tower** or **Glacier** and comes with a good set of disease resistance scores apart from Mildew. While the variety is equally at home on both light or heavy soils, it does save its best performance on lighter soils.

KWS TOWER	KWS	KWS Saffron x Retriever	102%	103%
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Two Row – The UK's leading two-row variety in 2016 taking a near 19% share of the winter barley market. Slightly taller than its sister varieties with no major disease resistance weaknesses, **KWS Tower** has been very consistent over the last five years of trials producing those characteristic long ears with large bold grains, in fact it has the largest grain of any variety on the **Recommended List**.

KWS FUNKY	KWS	Gigga x KWS Meridian	107%	107%
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Six Row – This is the new conventional 6 row that looks very promising indeed matching **Volume** for yield and being only 2% behind **Bazooka** and the newly recommended **Sunningdale**.

Shorter than its hybrid competitors, it offers growers early maturity and the highest specific weight on the **Recommended List** of any 6-row. In addition it's excellent disease package is highlighted in its untreated yield; the equal highest on the **Recommended List**.

BAZOOKA	Syngenta		109%	109%
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Hybrid – Consistent across all regions and at 109% of controls it is the joint highest yielding barley variety on the current **Recommended List**.

This tall, but stiff strawed variety offers northern growers the best heavy land performance and the best specific weight of any recommended hybrid, coupled with a solid all round disease profile.

SUNNINGDALE	Syngenta		109%	113%
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Hybrid – Along with **Bazooka**, this variety is the joint highest yielding hybrid on the recommended list and the variety really comes into its own in the northern region where its yield of 113% of controls is unrivalled, in fact it's a full 6% ahead of **Volume**.

*** To ensure your barley seed is on farm in good time, please order by 21st August 2017 ***

Suggested drilling rates are 200 seeds m² for September drillings in good conditions, these could be adjusted to suit local conditions at the time of drilling and with all hybrids to feed their vigorous spring growth it's important that early nitrogen availability is not limiting.

Farmer focus: Stephen Buckle from North Yorkshire



Meet Stephen Buckle, arable farmer and host of the new Grainco winter wheat demonstration plots.

Limebar Farm extends to 285 acres and is worked solely by Stephen with some seasonal labour at harvest and autumn drilling. There is 1,000 tonne of grain storage and another shed for fertilizer and machinery which includes a combine, a tele-handler, two tractors and associated implements.

The Farm is on sandy loam and, like many farms in the area, grew sugar beet in a four year rotation until York sugar factory closed in 2007. At that time the crop rotation was simplified to grow only cereals as work was also underway to convert three of the farm buildings into residential properties, including the barn conversion Steve now lives in with his wife Dee. Since then, half the farm (including the trial plots) has grown continual wheat while winter barley and spring wheat occupy the remaining area.

Stephen is well known to the staff at GrainCo as he regularly trades both feed

and milling wheat with local GrainCo representative Tony Ault and has grown seed barley crops for the Piercebridge plant for many years. For the past five years, Stephen has grown KWS Cassia, a variety that despite the many new additions to the Recommended List in recent years has remained very popular in our region. This year, in addition to the KWS Cassia seed crop, KWS Orwell is also being grown for the first time due in part to its combination of increased stem stiffness and high yield potential.

The main wheat varieties grown on the farm are Skyfall, for its milling potential, and the hard feed variety Dickens due to its dependable high yields in the north and ability to consistently deliver good grain quality.

Stephen was very keen to get involved with the demonstration plots and played a leading role in the selection of the fifteen wheat varieties chosen as he wanted to ensure the site was relevant to what farmers were growing locally. In addition it would give him the opportunity to monitor how these varieties performed throughout the growing season in a true on farm situation.

Stephen says the AHDB Recommended List contains a lot of very useful information, however there are characteristics of varieties which are not addressed. For example he has already observed speed of emergence, tillering ability and spring growth habits, all of which are important when selecting a variety.

The field used for the trials is in its 11th consecutive crop of wheat and was

established by ploughing and drilling with a power harrow drill on the 11th October.

KWS Barrel, KWS Siskin, LG Motown and Graham were the most vigorous varieties seen early doors, interestingly enough as of early May these remain the pick of the plots which overall are looking very well indeed and are a credit to Stephen.

Stephen has always been interested in exploring ways to increase his yields through research and he is currently a participant in the LearnN project, run by ADAS at Boxworth (Cambridge), which involves 18 farms across the UK trying to identify optimum nitrogen rates for wheat. This four year project uses yield mapping, a technology he hopes to utilize with the variety plots.

We are very grateful to Stephen for giving up his time to establish and host what we are sure will become a very useful and informative demonstration site for farmers within the local area.

Varieties on display

Group 1

Skyfall KWS Zyatt

Group 2

KWS Lili KWS Siskin

Group 3

KWS Barrel

Group 4 – Soft

LG Mowtown LG Sundance
Revelation

Group 4 – Hard

Costello Dickens
Grafton Graham
JB Diego KWS Gator
KWS Kerrin

Spotlight on seed treatments

Ensuring you choose the right seed treatment is one of the key factors in helping to establish your crop and maximize its yield potential.

REDIGO PRO

Active – Prothioconazole / Tebuconazole



Considered to be the leading single purpose seed treatment on the market for the control of the principal seed and soil-borne diseases and is applied as standard to all of our wheat and barley supplied via our Piercebridge based plant.

REDIGO DETER

**Active – Prothioconazole / Clothianidin
Wheat & Barley**



Uses – For the control of the principal seed-borne diseases and soil-borne bunt, provides robust aphid and therefore BYDV control in cereals by up to 10

weeks, reducing the need for follow up sprays. Furthermore it helps improve crop establishment by reducing damage by wireworms, slugs and crucially has no buffer zone restrictions.

So how does it work in reducing slug damage?

Individual seeds become attractive to slugs within hours of drilling, they attack the embryo within the softened grains, killing the seed resulting in the characteristic seed hollowing, which in turn leads to a decrease in the yield potential of the crops. Whilst it doesn't kill the slugs directly, the clothianidin creates a zone of protection around the seed itself, deterring the slugs from feeding on the grains and allowing better overall crop establishment.

Redigo Deter however does not offer any control once the plant has emerged therefore additional measures

may be needed if the slug population is high.

What about Aphid and therefore BYDV control in cereals?

Winter wheat crops treated with Redigo Deter should be sown at a minimum of 125kg/ha and for late August/ early September drillings 7–9 weeks protection will be given after which a follow up aphid control treatment is recommended ie mid-late October. A further follow up treatment in mid-late November will be required if conditions remain mild.

For the traditional mid-September drillings slot, 8–10 weeks protection will be given and for late September sowings using higher sowing rates, over 10 weeks protection will be given. Under normal aphid pressure no follow up sprays would then be required for late September sowings. Treated seed should not be sown between 1st January and 30th June.

Redigo Deter Bigger, better yields seed treatment

With grain prices where they are, you need to squeeze the maximum yield and quality out of every hectare.

So use Redigo Deter cereal seed treatment. You'll get a healthier crop and gain 2.15 t/ha higher yield in wheat and 2.75 t/ha in barley*.

See a video at the address below, talk to your advisor or call us on 0808 1969522.

www.cropscience.bayer.co.uk/redigo-deter ►



Redigo Deter contains prothioconazole and clothianidin. Redigo and Deter are registered Trade Marks of Bayer. Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use. Pay attention to the risk indications and follow the safety precautions on the label. For further information, please visit www.cropscience.bayer.co.uk or call Bayer Assist on 0808 1969522. © Bayer CropScience Limited 2017.

Spotlight on seed treatments

RADIATE

Aid to better rooting and establishment
Wheat, Barley, Oats and Oil Seed Rape

This complementary seed treatment is increasingly being used by farmers to help encourage improved establishment and increased root mass in their crops and in turn better yields. It can be co-applied with other seed treatments such as **Redigo Deter** and **Latitude** and be used on both wheat and barley. In addition since the withdrawal of neonics, growers may have noticed a considerable amount of rape seed supplied to the market is also now treated with **Radiate**.

So how does it actually work?

Radiate is a 'one shot life-long' bio-stimulant and nutrient complex based on zinc (a micro-nutrient) in an ammonium complex form for rapid uptake. Zinc promotes auxin production (a rooting hormone for plants) which causes rapid root development (to resist adverse conditions) and leaf expansion to maximise light interception and early growth. **Radiate** treatment triggers significantly improved photosynthetic activity which persists throughout the life of the crop and is especially important during the grain fill period .

NEW MANGANESE SOLUTION

Wheat, Barley, Oats

Many soils in the UK are manganese deficient and although foliar applications are effective at critical stages of growth, many growers simply forget that spraying cannot take care of the early stages of deficiency when there is insufficient foliage or indeed as can often be the case poor spraying conditions.

New Manganese Solution is a true liquid formulation of manganese nitrate which ensures it is immediately available to the germinating seed, independent trials have shown that Manganese levels in treated plants

were between 45% and 41% higher than in untreated plants after 7 and 14 days respectively.

This really is a very cost effective way to protect your crop from early deficiency problems.

New Manganese Solution™

New Manganese Solution provides the germinating seedling with essential manganese during the early, critical establishment phase.

Many soils in the UK are manganese deficient

Although foliar application of manganese is effective at critical stages of growth, spraying cannot take care of the early stages of deficiency when there is insufficient foliage and/or poor spraying conditions.

Treating the seed with **New Manganese Solution** is the most effective way to protect the cereal crop from early deficiency problems. This unique seed treatment ensures manganese is immediately available to the germinating seed.

Avoid this



Characteristics

New Manganese Solution:-

- ✓ Contains manganese in a fast acting readily available form
- ✓ True Liquid Formulation
- ✓ Dust free treated seed
- ✓ Absorbed into seed coat
- ✓ Excellent compatibility with other seed treatments
- ✓ No effect on seed flow when drilling
- ✓ Manganese readily available to the seedling
- ✓ Improves germination & early plant growth



DE SANGOSSE
De Sangosse Ltd, Hildon Mill, Quarry Lane, Swiffan Buteck, Carrbridge CB25 0LU
 Tel: 01223 811215, www.desangosse.co.uk

Spotlight on seed treatments

LATITUDE

Active – silthiofam For 2nd and 3rd wheats (white crops) and 1st wheats after non cropped land or spring barley.

The only seed treatment on the market to effectively reduce the effects of take-all and consistently shows a yield response in trials of over 0.5t/ha and our Piercebridge Plant was proud to be involved in the trialing process when it was being developed.

How does Latitude actually work?

The take-all fungus lives within the soil and infects the root system of the plant by making them become blackened and stunted, with the result that the plant becomes unable to access the nutrients and water needed.

Once drilled and in contact with the soil, the Silthiofam rapidly moves off the seed, creating a zone of protection around the developing roots of each seedling. The active remains at the site of action, even if rainfall follows drilling, actively delaying primary infection from the take-all fungus in the soil from infecting the newly developed roots. This allows better establishment and rooting and in turn reduces the level of take-all right through to grain fill by maintaining root efficiency well into May and June. This reduces the secondary symptoms such as stunting and whiteheads.

For optimum results co-apply **Radiate** with **Latitude** to further enhance the plants root system.



Bayer Sure Start seed treatment Quality Assurance Scheme

GrainCo cereal seed customers can have the confidence that the seed they are supplied with is backed by Bayer's SureStart assurance scheme.

Precision is everything in seed treatments and modern seed treatments are becoming more sophisticated, therefore Bayer collect and analyse treated samples from our plant on a regular basis throughout the season, to ensure the correct levels of seed treatments are being applied.

In the unlikely event of an issue, individually treated samples from each batch are retained for further inspection and analysis, we are even required to log the date, time of day and prevailing weather conditions at the time of each application.

Both of our seed plant operators Steve Taylor and Andrew Dowson have all the necessary qualifications in the handling and application of seed treatments and are rightly proud of their quality of work in supplying seed cleaned and treated to the highest standard.

Should you ever wish to have a personal tour of the plant you would be most welcome to do so.

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Oat area increases to meet demand



Tom Yewbrey, Sales Manager, Senova UK.

Oats have bucked the trend of the other main cereal and oilseed crops in 2017, with the winter planted area up by 20,000ha across the UK.

Despite increases for all winter crops in Scotland, the total UK data released by AHDB shows a 3% reduction for winter wheat, a slightly lower winter barley area and a 1% decline for oilseed rape.

In contrast, the oat area is up by 8% – reflecting some of the changes that have been taking place with rotations and the importance of market appeal.

However, as these figures only related to plantings up until December 2016, the total oat area increased further when spring plantings were completed, giving the crop even more of a boost, points out Tom Yewbrey of **Senova**.

“What we’re seeing with oats is a real success story,” he says. “Demand is rising, markets are expanding and varieties are improving all the time. So it’s not just the consumer who is benefiting from the range of healthy oat-based products on sale – the farmers are too.”

A new winter oat variety from **Senova** joined the **AHDB Recommended List 2017/18** at the end of last year and will be available for planting later this coming autumn.

Griffin, a very high yielding conventional husked winter oat with an 8% yield advantage over **Mascani**, has joined the list ahead of both of last years’ introductions, **Maestro** and **Lineout**.

With a yield of 106, a kernel content of 75.5% and a specific weight of 50.3kg/hl, **Griffin** offers both high

output and milling quality – an essential combination for today’s human consumption market.

“It has sound agronomics as well,” continues Tom. “It is slightly later to mature than **Mascani**, at +1, and it has respectable 5 ratings for both mildew and crown rust.”

Like most winter oat varieties, **Griffin** responds well to PGRs, as it is quite a tall variety at 120cm, he adds.

Of course, the miller’s favourite **Mascani** will take some replacing, having performed consistently in UK mills for over ten years.

“There are good reasons why **Mascani** continues to dominate and remain popular. It may be lower yielding than more recent additions, but it compensates for this with a high kernel content and specific weight.”

Large grains, low screenings and excellent hullability add to its appeal, acknowledges Tom.

“It’s also less susceptible to mildew, has the best resistance to crown rust and the highest resistance score for lodging.”



Oil Seed Rape – still the no. 1 break crop

With rapeseed prices today almost £100/t up on this time last year at circa £350/t before oil bonuses, and firm market prospects for the foreseeable future the crop makes an attractive proposition.

Indeed, current forecasts put the planted area for the coming season at an increased coverage of 580k Ha. With this and many other factors winter OSR remains the number one break crop for UK farmers. Key to on farm success however is to achieve a consistency in performance and growing practices that we often struggle to realise in practice.

To reduce the risks of winter oilseed rape production and increase the flexibility with which the crop can be managed we need far greater resilience in the varieties we grow.

Mark Shaw – Business Development Manager, Seeds & Traits – UK, Monsanto UK Ltd



DEKALB varieties are standing well clear of the field in grower preference and satisfaction as well as performance, according to the latest independent market research. The winter 2016/17 round of the industry-leading Kleffmann Group WOSR AMIS panel shows both **DK Extrovert** and **DK Exalte** increasing their share of plantings this season.

The fact that both varieties are now amongst the five most widely-grown in the country is all the more remarkable for the fact that neither have ever been on the **Recommended List** – in complete contrast to almost every other popular variety. Their popularity is not surprising given the fact that they outperformed the current top **RL** variety being a good 0.10t/ha ahead.

Unsurprisingly too, perhaps, growers of **DK Extrovert** and **DK Exalte** expressed much greater satisfaction with the varieties than growers of any of the other top 10 varieties. Growers identified high yield, consistent performance and easy management as their three most important criteria for oilseed rape satisfaction. And, in all three of these areas, levels of satisfaction were clearly higher amongst **DK Extrovert** and **DK Exalte** growers than growers of other varieties.

Apart from the superior value these two varieties deliver, this underlines the extent to which growers are looking for more than just yield in their winter OSR varieties. Alongside yield, the 2016/17 research, indeed, reveals light leaf spot resistance, phoma/ stem canker resistance, vigorous establishment, standing ability, earliness of maturity, rapid autumn development and pod

shatter resistance as the most sought after characteristics. The fact that **DK Extrovert** and **DK Exalte**, in particular, and **DEKALB** varieties in general deliver on so many of these key characters goes a long way towards explaining the popularity they command on-farm. It also explains, why more growers than average have chosen **DEKALB** varieties this season because of experience, recommendations, disease resistance and robustness and why growers are so much more loyal to **DEKALB** varieties than to those of other breeders.

Clearfield varieties bred to be resistant to Imazamox herbicides provide another opportunity for OSR growers to reduce risk and improve flexibility.

First and foremost, they enable the problem cruciferous weeds like charlock, runch and hedge mustard which can serious compromise profitable rape growing to be effectively controlled. This and their ability to control volunteer rape from seed surviving in the soil for many years, also makes them valuable in reducing the risk of erucic acid contamination.

By moving broad-leaved weed control from pre- to post-emergence too, the **Clearfield** system means crops can be treated only once they have safely developed to 2–4 true leaves, reducing any risk of setting-back OSR establishment. In addition, Imazamox resistance protects the crop against SU residues from previous cereal crops that may also affect establishment.

With establishment issues seen as a major factor effecting the successful cropping area last season this last point is rising in importance.

Winter Oil Seed Rape variety comments

Leading Conventional's Northern Region

Variety	GO	Oil Content
ANASTASIA	110%	45.1%

Sitting top of the Northern List, this is a very stable and reliable variety that has short stiff straw and a vigorous autumn growth habit.

BARBADOS	109%	45.5%
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Slightly later to mature and taller than Anastasia, but with very stiff straw. It has the best combination of LLS and Phoma resistance on the northern list. Suitable for early drilling.

CAMPUS	109%	45.7%
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Campus is a conventional variety from KWS which has produced high gross output in both the North and East/West regions. Medium tall plants with good standing power. Medium early to flower and medium late maturity. LLS 6 and Stem canker 6.

Leading Conventionals East+West Region

ELGAR	110%	45.4%
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Sitting top of the E+W List, this early maturing, stable variety offers very stiff straw, with the best combination of LLS and Phoma resistance of any conventional on the list.

Leading Conventional Candidate

BUTTERFLY	112% (north)	45.4%
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This variety has a prostrate growth habit making it suitable for the early-mid drilling slot. It is extremely stiff having twin 8's for standing and one of the best disease resistance packages scoring twin 7's for LLS and phoma, seed will be limited this autumn.

DJANGO	110.5%	45.3%
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With a combination of very good early vigour, a strong disease package, short stiff straw and an oil content of 45.3%, this variety is one of the most promising candidates in trials.

Leading Hybrids Northern Region

ALIZZE	109%	46%
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The highest yielding hybrid on the Northern list, also appears on the E+W list and offers growers relatively short stiff straw, excellent LLS resistance, very high oils coupled with strong autumn vigour.

Leading Hybrids East+West Region

AQUILA	108%	45.7%
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A very stiff strawed variety that offers growers excellent disease resistance ratings, coupled with strong autumn and spring vigour with the added bonus of pod shatter resistance.

Popular Varieties not shown on the Northern List

EXTROVERT	–	–
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The UK's top selling hybrid variety despite not being on either **Recommended List**. Excellent disease ratings, pod shatter resistance, suitable for the main drilling window, however its very strong autumn vigour also make it an excellent choice for later drillings.

DK IMPERIAL	Clearfield Technology	–	–
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Its rapid autumn growth habit ensures this **Clearfield** variety is not only suitable for the main drilling window, but also for the later drilling slot and comes with the added bonus of pod shatter resistance and very good levels of phoma and LLS resistance.

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Every care is taken in the preparation of this booklet, however it should only be used as a guide and GrainCo cannot accept any responsibility for any losses incurred as a consequence of this information. Data from the AHDB Recommended List except where otherwise stated: Full database available at www.ahdb.co.uk