



AGRONOMY UPDATE

Excellent weather conditions allowed growers to harvest winter barley and oats in timely fashion, as crops ripened quickly with the high temperatures. A long window of dry weather saw much of the crop harvested with ample time to gather straw for those who chose not to chop it. Cultivations are now well underway.

Winter Barley

Winter Barley crops have yielded relatively well this year and have ripened a week earlier than normal. Based on reports from around the country, yields appear to increase as we move from South to the North. Many growers are reporting yields of up to 4.4t/acre, but there are also some yields reported of approximately 3t/acre. BYDV pressure, poor rotations, and reports of take all and/or Rhizoctonia Solani are why we see these drops in yield. Many growers also cut back on fertiliser use this year which can explain some lower yields. Grain quality looks good; bushels weights are ranging between 66 - 72kph on average. Moisture content for barley was ranging from 15.5 - 17.5% predominantly throughout the harvest. Bordeaux appears to be amongst the higher performing two-row winter barley varieties so far, also displaying excellent grain quality with low screenings. Straw prices remain strong, with growers selling for €15 - €20 per bale depending on area and demand.



Harvesting the Winter Barley Fungicide and Variety plots at the Drummonds trial site.

Winter Wheat

The harvest date for winter wheat is fast approaching. There is strong potential for crops this year. Ample amount of rain was provided in May which is critical for high yields during the ear formation. The recent introduction of new chemistry such as Inatreq and Revystar is very welcome in tackling Septoria and will play a key role in achieving high yields this year.

Spring Barley

If you are considering pre-harvest Glyphosate, apply on spring barley crops at 30% moisture; at a rate of 720-1000 g/Ha depending on the greenness of the crop. Pre-Harvest glyphosate cannot be applied to a crop destined for the food chain such as milling oats or malting barley. It is also not permitted on seed crops.

Oilseed Rape

There is excellent potential for the Oilseed Rape crops of 2021. A long period of flowering and a lack of harsh weather this year has set crops up nicely for pod set and pod fill. Now, it is time to start planning for the OSR of 2022. OSR currently is the most profitable commodity crop and growers have a range of benefits when farmers include it in a rotation with cereal crops, including improvements in soil structure (strong tap root), weed control and yield of the subsequent cereal crop. OSR provides options for the control of problematic broad-leaved weeds and grass weeds. Alternative cropping also prevents the build-up of the same fungal spores in the soil. When sowing OSR, it is important to get the basics correct:

- Ensure pH is above 6.5.
- Sow into a fine, firm seed bed with good seed-soil contact.
- Drill from mid-August to the first week of September.

- To ensure an optimal establishment, incorporate the appropriate fertiliser to the seedbed based on up-to-date soil indices.
- Selecting a good variety.

Drummonds will be offering a range of the highest performing Oilseed Rape varieties to their growers for the 2022 growing season. PT303, PT279CL and DK ExStar are consistent varieties that perform exceptionally well under Irish weather conditions.

Planting PT303 in autumn 2022 allows growers to equip themselves with Sclerotinia resistance for the very first time into their crop management armoury.

What is Sclerotinia?

- Soil-borne fungal pathogen, which can remain viable in the soil for up to 8 years.
- Sclerotinia is usually the main disease to impact the OSR crop at the important flowering stage.
- In severe infections the yield impact can be >50%!
- Favourable weather conditions, long periods (>23hrs) of relative humidity >80% & air temperatures >7°C (day & night)
- Results in a weak plant which will die early. Lodging susceptibility increases.



Figure 1 and 2. Sclerotinia in Oilseed Rape. Choose PT303 to avoid this.

OILSEED RAPE VARIETIES

PT303



- PT303 is a hybrid variety that contains a unique combination of native multi-genic Sclerotinia tolerance traits.
- Delivered the highest gross output yields in each of the UK AHDB trial sites – including a UK region yield of 111%.
- Impressive disease resistance package - TuYV resistance and multigenic Phoma resistance.
- Excellent lodging resistance with high stem stiffness scores.

PT279CL

- PT279CL is the highest yielding Clearfield hybrid.
- Allows growers to tackle problematic broad-leaved weeds such as Charlock, Fumitory, Groundsel, Mayweed, Poppy and Chickweed.
- Excellent lodging resistance.
- Vigorous autumn development.

Agronomic Profile

Gross Output	96.0%
Leading Oil Content	45.0%
Light Leaf Spot Resistance	5
Stem Canker Resistance	5
Lodging Resistance	8
Plant Height (cm)	156
Earliness of Maturity	6

DK ExStar

- DK ExStar is a high-yielding variety
- Polygenic resistance for the most durable phoma/stem canker protection
- Rapid autumn development
- Excellent lodging resistance and stem stiffness

Contact the Drummonds team if you require further information about planting Oilseed Rape in 2022. Be on the lookout for slugs, flea beetle and pigeons grazing your crops. Shot-holes in the leaves are a result of slug damage. Slug pellets may be necessary.

Agriphos

Drummonds are supplying Agriphos – a P & K fertiliser and soil conditioner – which is suitable for any type of crop. It is a fertiliser which contains a high amount of Sulphur, Calcium, Magnesium and other trace elements. It is a product which is particularly suitable to the North East as soils are low in Calcium. Spreading this in the back end before sowing has a number of benefits:

- Sufficient amounts of P to emerging plants available
- Results in improved germination levels and an increase in root mass
- Growing a healthier, stronger plant that can cope better with environmental stresses

Drummonds provide the spreading service if needed. Please contact your Drummonds Technical Sales Advisor for more details.

Liming

As crops are beginning to clear from fields, it is time to start thinking about lime spreading. Liming is one of the oldest and most important methods of improving soil fertility. Soil pH plays a key role in soil fertility. Maintaining soil pH at an optimum level is vital to increase the microbiological activity in the soil. Ensuring soil pH is correct is also vital to ensure maximum absorption and usage of the N, P & K applied through fertilisers, giving a better return on your investment.

Crop	Optimum pH
Beet, Beans, Peas, OSR	7.0
Cereals and Maize	6.5
Grassland	6.3
Potatoes	6.0

Drummonds offer a full range of soil testing, soil mapping and PCN testing which is backed up with a full agronomy service to suit your cropping needs. Drummonds also offers a lime and variable rate lime spreading service through our branch network. We promote a top quality finely ground limestone to ensure quick absorption for maximum efficiency.



COVER CROPPING

Research and use at farm level has shown that cover crops improve soil health and soil structure, reduce nutrient leaching and provide green manure for microbial activity. Catch crop is grown primarily for the purpose of protecting or improving between period of regular crop production

Cover crops can play a key role in improving farm sustainability and can have a positive impact in terms of improving soil organic matter levels whether crops are reincorporated or grazed in-situ. The mix of rooting systems by different plant species can also alleviate any soil compaction issues and subsequently improve water infiltration rates. The impact of modern day agricultural practice on the wider environment is always under the spotlight; yet cover cropping can have a positive impact on flora and fauna. The canopy provided by a cover crop over winter can reduce soil loss through sedimentation significantly. Cover crops also play a part in feeding microorganisms in the soil itself. Natural plant compounds, known as root exudates, act as a feed source and result in increased earthworm populations in the soil. These earthworms play a key role in soil health and subsequent crop yield.

Drummonds can provide a range of cover crop mixtures that comply with GLAS and Greening crop rules, but also firmly with the objective of improving soil conditions. With so many cover crop options, some consideration needs to be given before sowing. Are we looking at filling a forage deficit and also having a positive impact on the soil? If so, look at a brassica crop such as Leafy Turnip and Forage Rape. If the focus is on a 'green crop' that will be grown and reincorporated to the soil, Phacelia, Vetch or Mustard are options amongst others. There are different options for different systems.

The principal mixtures which Drummonds are promoting are:

Glas Grazer (2 Hectare – 16 kg pack)

A rapidly growing mixture which will quickly establish green cover. Provides a high energy feed for grazing ruminants.

6 kgs x Forage Rape
10 kgs x Leafy Turnip

Note: Clubroot could become an issue if brassicas are used as a cover crop over a period of years.

N.B. Do not plant this mixture where you have oilseed rape or other brassicas in the rotation. It is advisable to have at least four years before sowing a second brassica crop in order to minimise disease carryover.

Key benefits:

- Best value catch crop mixture in terms of seed cost per hectare.
- Rapid growth.
- Soil conditioner.
- Improves soil structure.
- Reduces nutrient leaching.
- Suppresses weeds.
- Suitable for grazing after December 1st by sheep or cattle.

 **Soil Booster Pro**
(1.5 Hectare – 21 kg pack)



Vetch quickly provides green cover and fixes Nitrogen. Phacelia is quick to establish and produces a tuberous root which helps improve soil structure.

18 kgs x Vetch
3 kgs x Phacelia

Key benefits:

- Fast establishment. Ideally sown in August/early September.
- Nitrogen fixing.
- Improves soil structure.
- Suppresses weeds.

Research shows that these mixtures meet most of our customer requirements and Drummonds are confident in encouraging first time growers of catch crops this Autumn to plant these mixtures. Where required, we can make up other mixtures and/or supply the individual straights (e.g. tillage radish, mustard).

For more information, please speak directly with your Drummonds Technical Sales Advisor.

DRUMMONDS SPECIAL OFFERS - AUGUST 2022



AdBlue
20L - €38.00
10L - €27.00



Jeyes Fluid 5L
€45.00



Osmonds Bactakil 55 500ml
€22.00



Storm Secure
3kg - €49.00
10kg - €135.00 + free bait box



Vertox
4kg - €54.00
10kg - €110.00 + free bait box



Tunnel Bait Box
€7.00 each
Buy 9 get 1 FREE



Alkaline Battery 130ah
€23.80



JFC Drinkers
Micro Drinker - €65.00
Nose Fill Drinker - €70.00



Chemical Storage Cabinet
€385.00



RESEEDING DEMO DAY

Wednesday 10th August at 2pm
Collon, Co. Louth, A92 WY81

Contact our Drogheda branch
for more information Tel: 041 983 8986

Clonee
Tel: 01 825 5011

Navan
Tel: 046 9021 641

Dromone
Tel: 044 967 2650

Ardee
Tel: 041 685 3332

Mullingar
Tel: 044 9362 022

Lusk
Tel: 01 525 2903

Drogheda
Tel: 041 983 8986

Rathcoffey
Tel: 087 3110 772

Knockbridge
Tel: 042 937 4480

