

# August Agronomy Update

## Tillage Area

Currently, the national tillage area across cereals, maize, oilseed rape, protein and beet is approximately 335,000ha. Recently, the minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine complimented the resilience of the tillage sector and noted an increase in the total area by 21,000ha over the last four years.

A wet back end led to only 94,000ha sown, a 30% reduction on the last 5 years. Thankfully a large quantity of spring cereals were sown, balancing the national area to within 3% of last year's figures.

The diversity of non-cereal crops, including protein crops, beet, maize and oilseed rape increased by 5% to 71,500ha. Protein crops increased by 20%, with maize also increasing by 20% this year.

## Harvest 2024

The harvest has kicked off across the country, with many Winter Barley and Winter Oat crops wrapped up. Grain quality has proven positive this year despite the less than ideal conditions for drilling and in the lead up to harvest. It is an important time to assess how a variety performed on your farm and note strengths or weaknesses that will assist in choosing a variety for the season ahead.

Drummonds are delighted to have our own Winter Barley variety for the season ahead, Molly, which is our BYDV tolerant variety that

has excellent potential to yield. Holding the BYDV tolerant trait is an excellent advantage, especially for Irish conditions where pressure can be high. Molly scored 102 on the recommended list for 2024, with excellent disease ratings on Rhynchosporium and Mildew. Molly has excellent tillering capacity allowing for rapid ground cover in spring.



Harvesting Winter Barley Seed Crop

## Herbicide Resistance

Teagasc have published information on the results of herbicide resistance testing from 2023 which confirm that the extent of resistance is rising across many of the important weed species.

Over 75% of blackgrass and Italian ryegrass tested was resistant to the ACCase group of herbicides, this includes popular products such as Axial, Falcon, Stratos. Tests have also found chickweed, corn marigold and speedwell resistant to ALS-type herbicides, and poppy resistant or tolerant to ALS and/or hormone type herbicides.

A Weed Watch 2024 campaign has been launched to encourage members of the tillage community to take samples of any suspected resistance grass and broad-leaved weeds and send them for testing. This includes blackgrass, Italian ryegrass, poppy, wild oats and speedwell. There is a free testing service at Oakpark which allows growers the opportunity to test and identify problem weeds and consult your Drummonds Agronomist to plan an integrated herbicide programme for the year ahead.



Blackgrass Plant

## Harvest Payments 2024

Harvest payments for 2024 will be made by bank transfer. Please liaise with your Drummond's Account Manager in order to provide your bank details and ensure no delays to your payment.

## Glyphosate Label Changes

Due to the re-registration of glyphosate products, there are some changes to be noted, including changes in PCS numbers.

Some of these changes include (rates based on 360g/L product):

- The use of glyphosate for harvest management on oilseed rape is not allowed – it can only be used for weed control, same as cereals;

- The pre-harvest use of glyphosate on beans is not allowed in any circumstance.
- Glyphosate for pre-harvest weed control is only permitted when the crop is greater than BBCH 87 and grain/seed moisture is less than 30%.
- Glyphosate for grassland destruction, the maximum rate is now 4L/ha – please note the change from 6L/ha.
- For post-planting and pre-crop emergence, the maximum rate for glyphosate is now 1.33L.
- The maximum rate for glyphosate on

non-crop areas is now 5L/ha – note a change from 6L/ha.

- Weed wipers are no longer an approved application method.

Authorisations for the 'old' label glyphosate products expired on March 31, 2024. NOTE existing stocks of these products can be used up until September 30, 2025.

**Drummonds would like to wish all our customers continued success throughout this years' harvest.**

# Oilseed Rape Varieties 2024

## PT312

### Key Points

- ✓ A new hybrid variety for 2024 containing all of the key traits for maximum yield potential in Oilseed rape.
- ✓ Strong vigour in autumn and rapid growth in spring.
- ✓ Contains pod-shatter resistance, sclerotinia tolerance and Turnip Yellows Virus Resistance.
- ✓ Strong resistance to phoma.

## PT315

### Key Points

- ✓ Maximise seed yield potential for 2025.
- ✓ Ground covers of over 70% achievable in autumn – reducing pigeon grazing.
- ✓ Contains Pod shatter resistance.
- ✓ Turnip Yellows Virus (TuYV) resistance and multigenic phoma resistance genes.
- ✓ Scored 9 for lodging and 8 for stem stiffness in UK trials.



# Drive your Animal's Performance this Autumn with Drummonds Feeds

From late June to October, a substantial number of beef cattle will be slaughtered off grass. Slaughtering cattle at this time of year has a number of advantages including lower cost of production with less meal input, cheaper weight gain off grass, and heavier carcasses. Generally, animals killed in early summer benefit from a price rise also.

Pushing heavy cattle to finish off grass is economically attractive against the costs associated with winter housed feeding. Feeding meal on farms where grass supply is tight will benefit in terms of a reduced grass demand and increased animal performance. Carcass growth response to concentrate supplementation at pasture is higher where grass supply is low and where grass quality is poorer.

Now is the time to assess your stock and decide which route to go with your heavier store cattle. Grass quality at this time of year tends to reduce compared to spring / summer grass, with Dry Matter (DM) content typically of 12-16% and the energy content reducing as the year progresses. Supplement to ensure a minimum of 1kg liveweight gain per day is achieved.

Responses to feeding cattle 4kg of meal at grass:

- Daily gain: +0.2-0.3 kg/day
- Kill out: +0.5-1.5%
- Carcass: +35-40kg
- Confirmation: +0.2-0.8-unit increase
- Fat: 1-1.5-unit increase.



Teagasc feeding trials completed at Teagasc Grange indicate that there is an economic response to feeding 0.5kg concentrates per 100kg liveweight (e.g. 3kg of ration to a 600kg animal) where grass is plentiful and 1kg concentrates per 100kg liveweight (e.g. 6kg ration to a 600kg animal) where grass is scarce. Drummonds have a comprehensive range of top quality coarse and cube rations available.

## Planning Fodder for the Winter

It is also important for farmers to plan their fodder for next winter, if not already done so. With a lot of feed used up on farms last winter, and fodder being fed throughout the summer to supplement grass shortages, it is essential for farmers to plan ahead to prevent any further shortages. The table on the next page can be used to calculate the fodder demand on your farm. The winter housing period depends on the part of the country you are in. Review the average time cattle are spending indoors on your farm and add a month's fodder reserve to this time period as a buffer. To measure pit silage measure length x width x height in metres and divide by 1.4 (this is allowing for pit silage at 22% DM) and measure bales at 700kg on average.



## What fodder is required on the farm?

Animal Type	A No. of stock to be kept over Winter	B Number of months (includes a 4-6 week reserve)	C Pit silage needed, tonnes/ animal/month	Total tonnes of silage needed multiply (AxBxC)
Dairy cows			1.6	
0-1 year old			0.7	
1-2 year old			1.3	
2+ year old			1.3	
Total tonnes needed			<b>D</b>	
Total bales needed (tonnes multiplied by 1.25)			<b>E</b>	

# August Offers

Ends 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

NOW  
**€2195**  
inc. VAT



Platinum 1360L Fuel/Oil Tank (Station Bunded)

NOW  
**€99**  
inc. VAT



Forcefield B20 Battery Fencer inc Earth Rod (4km)

\*Battery not included

NOW  
**€210**  
inc. VAT



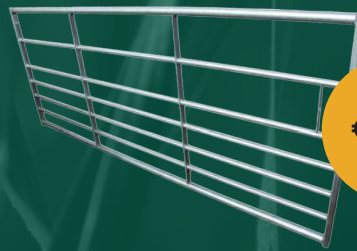
JFC 90g/400L Fast Flow Water Trough

NOW  
**€360**  
inc. VAT



JFC Medium Chemical Storage Unit

NOW  
**€184**  
inc. VAT



13ft Heavy Gate

NOW  
**€58**  
inc. VAT



Vertox Wax Block Rat Bait 4kg Bucket

NOW  
**€26.50**  
inc. VAT



Acorn Maxi-Trace Sheep Mineral Drench 1L

NOW  
**€50**  
inc. VAT



Show Time Clear Soap 2.5kg

NOW  
**€22.50**  
inc. VAT



Forcefield Neon Tester



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