

AHDB HARVEST REPORT

Report 1 – Week 1

Week ending 09 July 2025



NOTE

This is the first harvest report of the 2025/26 season and covers the beginning of harvest up to 09 July 2025. It is produced with data collected by The Andersons Centre and compiled by AHDB. The information is based on a sample survey of farmers across the UK and will provide figures on harvest progress throughout the harvest season.

Given that we are at an early stage in the season, and that weather has been variable in the approach to harvest, there will inevitably be variation in farms across the country. As can be expected, some regions have only seen minimal progress at this point. As such, early yield data will likely be skewed and should not be considered representative of the whole country. Information on quality is also limited at this point.

Please note that these harvest progress reports are separate from AHDB's Recommended Lists harvest data, which includes results from their variety trials.

Grain and seed yields from early harvested crops are based on farmer reported yields. The percentage deviation between the farmers reported yield and the five-year average is applied to the regional five-year average quoted by Defra. Yields have been adjusted where moisture is above 14.5% for cereals and 8% for oilseed rape. Moisture levels below 14.5% and 8% have not been adjusted.

OVERVIEW

Following long dry spells in the spring and recent high temperatures, harvest is off to the fastest start since at least 2006 (earliest available report), with multiple reports of winter barley being cut in June.

Due to a band of heavy rainfall during the weekend of the 05-06 July, there was a slight pause in combining. Though harvest pace has since picked up.

Winter barley harvest is progressing rapidly, owing to the dry weather either side of the 05-06 July. However, progress is highly variable both within and between regions. Out of those farms surveyed across the UK, 10% of winter barley crops are reported to have been harvested.

While some oilseed rape has now been cut, no progress was reported by participants in this survey. Reports of yields in the earliest cut oilseed rape have been encouraging, though variable. Due to the high temperatures forecast for the coming days, growers are warned to be mindful of temperature claims when going into stores.

Harvest is expected to continue progressing well in the coming fortnight, with winter barley harvesting already complete for some farms. There will now be a gap for many before winter wheat harvest commences, while some will move straight into harvesting oilseed rape.

WINTER BARLEY

Harvest update

Overall, it is estimated that 10% of the UK winter barley area was harvested by 09 July 2025. This is ahead of the same time last year when harvest was 7% complete, and the five-year average of 6% complete at this point in the season.

So far, progress has only been recorded in the Eastern and South Eastern regions in this survey. However anecdotally, harvest has begun in other regions too, notably in the South West and East Midlands. In the Eastern region, 38% of winter barley is reported to have been harvested. This ranges from some farms that are yet to start, to others who have now finished. In the South East, 19% of the crop has been harvested according to the survey.

For farms further North and West, harvest is expected to start early next week.

Straw volumes are proving a challenge so far this season, with some very short crops due to the prolonged warm and dry weather.

Yields

Yields of winter barley have generally been reported as positive, despite the dry weather seen during the latter stage of crop development. Reported UK yields averaged 6.9 t/ha, up 2% on the five-year average. Reported yields range from 6.8-7.0 t/ha. However, it can be expected that these figures will change as more data is collected.

Quality

This is the first report in the series, so the volume of processed samples is low. As a result, there is currently limited quality data available. Further information will be published in the next harvest report.

Specific weight – Initial specific weights in the Eastern region are good and are as high as 70 kg/hl in some areas.

Screenings – No data available.

Grain nitrogen (for malting varieties) – No issues with nitrogen levels reported yet.

Moisture – Moisture levels of crops harvested to date have averaged 13.6%.

Germination – No data available.