

NOTE

This is the second harvest report of the 2025/26 season and covers the beginning of harvest up to 23 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.

At this stage of harvest, some regions have seen more progress than others. As such, yield and quality data will likely be skewed and should not yet be considered representative of the whole country.

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

Whilst harvest got off to a fast start, intermittent and often heavy rainfall has slowed progress. There is a noticeable slowdown from the week ending 16 July to the current week, driven by rainfall over the past weekend (19-20 July). In many cases, combining has not restarted since Friday 18 July.

A particularly heavy band of rain moved across Northern Ireland, northern England and Scotland on Monday and Tuesday this week, further stalling progress.

With further rainfall forecast, some growers have been cutting crops at higher moistures where wet weather is likely to impact quality (milling wheat) or yield (oilseed rape and pulses). This will incur drying costs.

At this point of harvest, there is no consistent picture of yields for the UK. There is significant variation in yield trends both within regions and within farms. Generally, moisture has been the limiting factor this season. Those on lighter soils have generally seen poorer yields, while those on heavier, moisture retentive soils have fared better.

Straw yields are highly variable depending on the level of moisture available to the crop during stem extension.

The fast start to harvest has led to some logistical challenges in the sector. Winter wheat is ready for harvest movement on farm, but there is still old crop wheat requiring movement.

WINTER BARLEY

Harvest update

The winter barley harvest was 92% complete by 23 July, across the farms surveyed. Scotland and Northern Ireland are currently the only countries where progress is not reported to be 100%.

The harvesting of winter barley progressed quickly and by 16 July had reached 77% complete, up 67 percentage points from 9 July.

National progress is ahead of the past two years but similar to 2022, when winter barley harvesting was 93% complete by 26 July.

Yields

Yields of winter barley have been highly variable ranging from 4.7t/ha to 8.3t/ha. Overall, the UK winter barley yield is in line with the five-year (2020-2024) average at 6.7t/ha. However, yields reported on-farm vary from 29% under the five-year average to 19% over.

Quality

Winter barley quality is generally good. While yields have been low specific weights have been high, this has also resulted in very low levels of screenings. Given the hot dry weather in late spring/ early summer, it is not surprising that nitrogen levels are also reported as high. This may prove challenging for some end markets, with a [majority of winter malting barley required by maltsters](#) in the 1.66-1.85% nitrogen range.

Specific weight – Specific weights ranged from 61 – 73 kg/hl, with an average of 65 kg/hl.

Screenings – Screening retentions (on a 2.25 mm sieve) for winter barley are averaging 99%.

Grain nitrogen (for malting varieties) – Nitrogen levels for winter malting barley range from 1.4% to 2.0%, averaging 1.7%.

Moisture – Moisture levels of crops harvested to date have averaged 14.3%.

Germination – There are no reported problems with germination in the winter malting crop, averaging 99%.

WINTER OILSEED RAPE

Harvest update

The oilseed rape harvest was 54% complete as at 23 July, up from 21% in the week ending 16 July. Progress harvesting winter oilseed rape is behind last year, when 73% of the crop had been harvested by this point.

While there has been strong progress across southern and eastern England and Wales, there's no progress is yet reported for northern England, Northern Ireland or Scotland.

Rainfall, which has delayed the harvesting of winter crops, has resulted in some planting of next year's oilseed rape crop.

Yields

Yields of oilseed rape crops have been very encouraging for the most part. Regional comparisons against the five-year average are challenging owing to some historically poor yields.

The 2025 UK average yield is estimated to be 3.76t/ha, 21% above the five-year average UK yield of 3.11t/ha. Yields are up in all regions reported so far, except Wales. The biggest increases are seen in the Eastern and South Eastern regions at 39% and 27% above the five-year average, respectively.

Quality

Quality of oilseed rape is reportedly good.

Oil content – Oil content is averaging around 45%, with a range of 42%-46%.

Moisture – Average moisture of oilseed rape is reported to be 8.5%.

OATS

Harvest update

The oat harvest is reported to be 3% complete in the UK, albeit based on a limited sample. The East Midlands reports the most progress so far.

Yields

Early oat yields are reported as 5% below the five-year average of 5.05 t/ha. However, this is not representative with the UK average yield including both spring and winter crops.

Quality

With oat harvesting at an early stage, data on quality is not yet available. Further information will be published in future reports.

Specific weight – No data available.

Moisture – No data available.

WINTER WHEAT

Harvest update

The winter wheat harvest is 11% complete as of 23 July, up just 6 percentage points on the previous week. Progress is ahead of the past two years but at a similar stage to 2022 when 11% was cut by 26 July.

Combining is furthest progressed in the East and East Midlands at 27% and 15%, respectively.

Yields

Early yields are reported to be down 11% on average in the UK, at 6.9t/ha. There is significant variation in yields both between and in regions.

Quality

While yields of wheat have so far been disappointing, quality is reported to be good. This is encouraging though will need to be monitored as harvest progression means the volume of samples processed so far is low.

Specific weight – Specific weights are good, with a high of 84 kg/hl reported in one case, and an average to date of 78kg/hl.

Hagberg Falling Number (HFN) – There have been no early issues with Hagberg Falling Numbers, although this will need monitoring in light of the intermittent weather.

Protein – Protein contents are often 14.0% or higher for samples processed so far.

Moisture – The average moisture observed across the UK so far is 13.3%, though with a range of 12.2% – 15.3%.

SPRING BARLEY

Harvest update

The spring barley harvest has started in the East of England and is reported to be 2% complete at a national level. Spring barley harvesting had yet to start at this point last year or in 2023, though 2% had been harvested by the end of week 3 (26 July) in 2022.

Yields

It is too early to give a representative picture of spring barley yields.

Quality

There is currently limited quality data available. Further information will be published in future harvest reports.

Specific weight – No data available.

Screenings – No data available.

Grain nitrogen (for malting varieties) – No data available.

Moisture – Moisture levels of crops harvested to date have averaged 14.0%.

Germination – No data available.

PULSES

Pulse harvesting is underway in some regions, although this is very early. The harvest at a national level is 4% complete. Crops harvested in the midlands have been cut at high moisture levels (18-20%), suggesting they are not necessarily fit.

Many fields of pulses still have green stems, while pods look ready to go.