

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The beginning of June had prolonged dry and sunny conditions for most the country. The dry conditions impacted winter and spring crops, especially on lighter and thinner soils. Crop condition scores for spring barley crops show the largest declines.

There is also some concern in the West Midlands and Wales that dry conditions have prevented crops from taking up sufficient nitrogen fertiliser.

By mid-June, all regions experienced rain and thunderstorms – although these were localised, and rainfall was highly variable. Minimal to no crop damage or lodging was reported due to the storms.

There have been odd, localised reports of early senescence in winter cereals, particularly on lighter soils. There is concern that recent rainfall will not be enough to allow crops to recover fully.

Overall, pest and disease pressure are low, but grass weeds have become prevalent in winter cereal crops. While Septoria was the main concern earlier in the season, the dry conditions through early June helped to reduce Septoria pressure.

Previous damage from Cabbage stem flea beetle (CSFB) remains the biggest issue in winter oilseed rape (OSR) crops impacting crop potential. There also are reports of aphid numbers increasing in cereal crops, but they remain below threshold levels.

The timing of planting for forage maize crops was variable across the regions, but crops have generally established well. Some areas experienced delays due to wet spring weather, while others were able to complete plantings on time.

In summary, yield prospects are good for the majority of winter cereal crops. The outlook is mixed for winter oilseed rape (OSR), ranging from poor to excellent, depending on where pest damage has had an impact. The prospects for spring cereals depend on future rainfall.

CROP CONDITION

Crop condition was assessed using the USDA approach. This classifies crops into one of five categories (see details below). The values are given as a percentage of the GB crop planted area for that crop, that fall into each of the categories – regional condition scores are available on the [AHDB website](#).

Crop condition definitions:

Very poor: Extreme degree of loss to yield potential, complete or near crop failure.

Poor: Heavy degree of loss to yield potential, which can be caused by excess soil moisture, drought, disease etc.

Fair: Less than normal crop condition. Yield loss is a possibility, but the extent is unknown.

Good: Yield prospects are normal. Moisture levels are adequate and disease, insect damage and weed pressure are minor.

Excellent: Yield prospects are above normal. Crops are experiencing little or no stress. Disease, insect damage and weed pressures are insignificant.

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat	0%	7%	16%	59%	17%
Winter Barley	0%	4%	11%	68%	16%
Winter Oats	0%	2%	23%	68%	7%
Winter OSR	3%	8%	26%	49%	14%
Spring Wheat	2%	8%	21%	66%	3%
Spring Barley	6%	11%	31%	46%	7%
Spring Oats	0%	4%	27%	55%	14%

Source: RSK ADAS

Note: Figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding

WHEAT

Crop conditions

For the week ending Tuesday 20 June, 76% of the GB winter wheat crop was in good/excellent condition. This is down 9% on the month and is also 6% below the 82% at the same point last season (published 24 June 2022).

Overall winter wheat crops are in good condition. Dry weather has had an adverse impact on some crops on lighter land, though these are variable and localised.

Most crops are now in between the growth stages (GS) 70 (flowering complete) and 75 (medium milk development). This is in line with where crops were at this time last year.

Nutrition

All fertiliser applications have been completed.

Weed pressure

Grass weeds, particularly brome, blackgrass, and wild oats are becoming an issue in several regions. Issues with grass weeds are more widely reported for the Midlands and southern England. However, broadleaved weed control has generally been effective.

Pest pressure

In general, pest pressure remains low. There are reports of aphid numbers increasing, but they remain below threshold levels.

Disease pressure

The main concern earlier in the season was about Septoria. But the dry conditions through early June helped to reduce Septoria pressure.

No major disease issues are reported, even though there were some delays in applying fungicide sprays.

Prospects for the coming months

Overall, crops look generally well, however yield prospects will depend on future weather conditions and the impact of any grass weed infestations.

WINTER BARLEY

Crop conditions

Overall, GB winter barley is in good condition. For the week ending Tuesday 20 June, 85% of winter barley was in good/excellent condition, up from 80% at the same point last year, but down from 88% last month. 4% of the crop was in poor/very poor condition, compared to 1% at this time last season.

Most crops are now between GS 75 and 80 (medium – late milk development). This is now slightly behind this point last season (June 2022), when crops had reached 77 – 85 (late milk development – soft dough).

Nutrition

All fertiliser applications have now been completed.

Weed pressure

Much like wheat, broadleaf control has been good, but grass weeds control has been less effective.

In Yorkshire, rye and meadow brome incidence is far higher than previously seen.

Pest pressure

Similar to winter wheat, pest pressure generally remains low.

Disease pressure

Generally, crops are looking clean with little to no incidences of disease reported.

Prospects for the coming months

Overall, winter barley crops are in good condition and are beginning to show signs of senescence.

WINTER OATS

Crop conditions

Crops have grown well, and most crops are now at GS 70 -75. There is some concern over lodging in taller crops.

For the week ending Tuesday 20 June, 75% of GB's winter oat crop was in good/excellent condition. This is down from 80% on 30 May and down from 85% at this point last year. 2% of the crop was in poor/very poor condition, in line with this point last season.

Nutrition

All fertiliser applications have been completed.

Weed pressure

Again, much like wheat and barley, grass weeds are becoming more of an issue. Broadleaved weeds have been well controlled.

Pest pressure

Aphid numbers are reported to be increasing but they remain below the threshold and in general, pest pressure is low.

Disease pressure

Crops are looking clean with little to no incidences of disease reported.

Prospects for the coming months

Overall, crops look to be in good to excellent condition. Lodging risk is the main point of concern, but the incidence will depend on weather conditions in the coming weeks.

WINTER OILSEED RAPE (OSR)

Crop conditions

Crop conditions remain very variable. Damage from CSFB, pigeons and rape stem weevil are the main causes of variability.

At week ending Tuesday 20 June, 63% of winter oilseed rape was in good/excellent condition. This is down from 68% at the same point last season but unchanged from the week ending 30 May.

In terms of development, the seed for most winter OSR crops across the country are now reaching full size (green). Although, in Yorkshire, most crops are a little behind at the 100% potential pod set stage. This is due to high CSFB and pigeon damage which has had an impact on pod set in some crops.

Nutrition

All fertiliser applications have now been completed on OSR crops.

Weed pressure

Weed control so far this season has generally been effective in most crops.

Pest pressure

Where CSFB damage was high earlier in the season, crops are still showing the impact. CSFB is the main cause of variability in crops for regions affected by CSFB. Where regions previously reported damage from pigeons (North West and West Midlands) or rape stem weevil (East Midlands and East of England), these crops seem to now be recovering.

No new major pest issues have been reported, though there are reports of mealy cabbage aphid in some crops in the West Midlands and South West.

No major pest issues have been reported.

Disease pressure

Very few incidences of disease have been reported so far. The risk of sclerotinia is now low across GB.

Prospects for the coming months

The outlook for yields is mixed, with crops ranging from poor to excellent depending on earlier pest damage, particularly CSFB.

SPRING WHEAT

Crop conditions

Crop development is variable across the regions, depending on when the crop was sown and if dry weather has hindered crop development. The majority of crops range from flag leaf sheath swollen (GS45) to ear emergence complete (GS60).

Dry weather has started to negatively impact crop condition, particularly on lighter soils.

For the week ending 20 June, 70% of the spring wheat crop is reportedly in good/excellent condition (may not match table due to rounding). This is down from 77% in the week ending 30 May but close to the 71% at this point last year. 10% in poor/very poor condition, compared to 7% last season.

Nutrition

All main nitrogen applications have now been completed. Though in the West Midlands, some additional foliar nitrogen applications for protein are still needed.

Weed pressure

There are no reports of major weed issues so far, though there are some localised grass weed infestations.

Pest pressure

No major pest issues have been reported so far. Gout fly and aphids have been seen in several regions, but only at low levels.

Disease pressure

Crops are generally looking clean. But there have been occasional reports of yellow rust on susceptible varieties in the East of England, and Yorkshire.

Prospects for the coming months

Crops range from below average to good condition. Dry weather the main concern for yield prospects.

SPRING BARLEY

Crop conditions

Development of spring barley crops is also variable across the regions, although the majority range from GS45 to GS60. The variability is due to differences in drilling date, soil type, and the impact of recent weather conditions. Later sown crops and those on lighter, thinner soils are particularly struggling with dry weather.

The most developed crops are in the East Midlands, where the earliest crops have started dough development.

For the week ending Tuesday 20 June, 53% of spring barley crops are now rated as in a good/excellent condition. This is a marked decline from the 74% in the week ending 30 May (may not match the table due to rounding). It is also well down from the 77% at this point last season.

The percentage of the crop in poor/very poor condition is also up at 17%, up from just 1% at this point last year.

Nutrition

Like spring wheat, all fertiliser applications have now been completed.

Weed pressure

Again, much like spring wheat, there has been no significant weed pressure reported so far. However, in the East Midlands more blackgrass is reported in crops than previous years.

Pest pressure

Low pest pressure is reported so far. There are some symptoms of BYDV apparent, but overall incidence is low.

Disease pressure

No major incidences of disease have been reported so far.

Prospects for the coming months

Spring barley crops are variable, with earlier sown crops generally in better condition than later sown crops. Yield prospects will depend on future weather conditions.

SPRING OATS

Crop conditions

Like other spring cereals, growth stages are variable across the country. Most crops are between GS45 (Flag leaf sheath swollen) and GS60 (Panicle completely emerged).

For the week ending Tuesday 20 June, 69% of the crop was in good/excellent condition, down from 78% at this point last season. It is also down from the week ending 30 May, when 73% was in good/excellent condition.

Just 4% was in poor/very poor condition, in line with last season.

Nutrition

As with other spring cereals, all fertiliser applications are now complete.

Weed pressure

Again, there have been no significant reports of weed issues so far.

Pest pressure

Pest pressure in spring oat crops remains low. Some symptoms of BYDV are visible, but the overall incidence is low.

Disease pressure

No major incidences of disease have been reported so far.

Prospects for the coming months

Crop conditions are good in most cases. Dry weather is the main concern for yield prospects.

SPRING OILSEED RAPE

Crop conditions

Due to there being so few spring OSR crops, information on the crop is based on very limited data and confidence in the data is low as a result.

Generally, crop condition is variable, depending on the timing of planting and soil type.

Nutrition

All nitrogen applications have been completed.

Weed pressure

Weed control has been effective so far.

Pest pressure

CSFB caused early damage, though most crops now appear to be recovering. In Yorkshire, insecticide was applied where pollen beetles reached threshold levels.

Disease pressure

No major incidences of disease are reported.

Prospects for the coming months

Crop condition is highly variable, ranging from very poor to good. So, yield prospects are also very variable.