

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welcome rains continued for most into June. However, almost all regions reported rainfall at levels below the long-term average through the month. Recently, high temperatures have been recorded across much of the UK, although broken in brief periods with cooler spells and showers. Overall, crops are generally looking well, although yield potential may be affected if rainfall remains low.

Pest pressure is generally low and aphid levels have remained below insecticide treatment threshold levels.

Farmers are generally expressing several concerns on the run-up to harvest. Firstly, there are worries over the greatly increased drying costs that will be felt this summer. Secondly, the continued volatility in grain prices and high input costs are weighing heavy. Furthermore, difficulty sourcing glyphosate for pre-harvest use is leading some to consider direct harvest without desiccation.

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	Crops not yet emerged
Winter Wheat	1%	2%	15%	63%	19%	0%
Winter Barley	0%	1%	18%	62%	18%	0%
Winter Oats	0%	2%	13%	72%	13%	0%
Winter OSR	2%	5%	25%	48%	20%	0%
Spring Wheat	1%	6%	21%	66%	5%	0%
Spring Barley	0%	1%	21%	74%	3%	0%
Spring Oats	0%	4%	18%	74%	3%	0%
Spring OSR	4%	8%	32%	52%	3%	1%

Source: RSK ADAS

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

WHEAT

Crop establishment

Good yield potential is being reported for many, although dry weather may curtail grain filling. Wheat plants have entered the grain filling stage in good condition, but final yield is weather dependant. Water stress imposed during the grain filling stages of wheat growth, especially at the early filling stages, usually results in a reduction in grain weight leading to reduced grain yield.

Overall, crops are developing well, with the majority now at GS 70-75.

Nutrition

Foliar N is being applied by many to milling wheat varieties at early grain fill stage, in order to try and reach 13% protein.

Weed pressure

Typical grassweeds have been reported (blackgrass, ryegrass and brome) and are now being seen above the crop canopy and are beginning to seed. However, the new wheat herbicide, BASF Luximo, should offer improved blackgrass and ryegrass control.

Some growers have applied late broadleaved weed control measures for cleavers and annual bindweed. Wild oats are reportedly present in many crops, with some going to harvest wide a moderate level of infestation.

Pest pressure

Gout fly eggs have been reported by many, with some infestations reaching threshold levels for insecticide application. Rose-grain aphids remain below treatment thresholds despite favourable conditions leading to increased trap numbers.

Disease pressure

Generally, there is lower than average disease pressure reported. Some fusarium damage has been seen, particularly where significant amounts of rain occurred at flowering.

Yellow rust is a concern in more susceptible varieties, with some growers opting for top-up treatments. Yield penalties result from the rust colonies in the leaf, draining carbohydrate from the plant and reducing green leaf area. Severe infections result in poor root growth and drought susceptibility.

Following rain in May and June, Septoria levels are on the rise, with flag leaf infections now seen.

Prospects for the coming months

Good yield prospects remain, providing there is enough rain for decent grain fill.

WINTER BARLEY

Crop establishment

Growth stages range between 77-85 and some crops are beginning to ripen. Lodging is reported in some areas, particularly where fertiliser applications have overlapped.

Nutrition

All fertiliser applications are now complete. The recent rain has washed the final applications in well.

Weed pressure

Blackgrass, brome, wild oats, and ryegrass are present in high numbers in many fields. In Eastern regions, direct drilled malting crops reportedly have high levels of wheat weeds, which will affect malting quality.

Crop canopies are well closed, blocking out broadleaved weeds

Pest pressure

Fairly low pest pressure has been reported. Aphids remain below threshold levels and low levels of BYDV are reported. Birds have started grazing on early ripening crops.

Disease pressure

Some late brown rust has been observed on more susceptible varieties. Mildew and loose smut has also been seen.

Prospects for the coming months

Good prospects, but still remain weather dependent.

WINTER OATS

Crop establishment

The majority of crops are ranging between growth stages GS61 and GS70. Grain filling is well underway, and yield potential remains good.

Nutrition

Fertiliser applications are now complete; the recent rains being very timely.

Weed pressure

Blackgrass, brome, wild oats, and cleavers have all been present in crops and are emerging above the crop canopy. Broadleaved weeds have been well controlled at stem extension.

Pest pressure

Aphids have been reported but remain under the treatment threshold level.

Disease pressure

Mildew and crown rust have been reported in some crops, generally the better control has been with SDHI chemistry.

Prospects for the coming months

Generally fair prospects for straw and grain yields.

WINTER OILSEED RAPE

Crop establishment

The majority of WOSR crops are at GS79 – 84. Crops are now beginning to ripen and pod sealants are starting to be applied to protect against shatter.

Some farmers are showing interest in direct harvesting without desiccation, due to the high costs and difficulty of getting hold of glyphosate.

Nutrition

All nutrition is now complete with recent rain washing final applications in well. Some growers reduced N fertiliser rates in response to high N costs. By reducing N rate at the maximum that was being recommended at the time of N application (50 kg N/ha), yield reductions of on average 0.16 t/ha (up to a maximum of 0.25 t/ha) might be expected. This could take the edge off some crop yields

Weed pressure

Thistles from late germination in some crops are starting to show above the canopy.

Pest pressure

Crops affected by pigeon grazing are looking patchy in places. There are some reports of mealy cabbage aphid, but the damage is unlikely to affect the overall crop yield.

Disease pressure

Disease levels are generally low, although in Wales, some light leaf spot and sclerotinia are reported.

Prospects for the coming months

Prospects are currently looking good, although there is some concern about the quality of pod filling.

SPRING WHEAT

Crop establishment

Crops are at very early grain fill. In Scotland, spring wheats are growing fast. The windy weather has relented, enabling timely plant growth regulator use.

Late sown crops are performing poorly and there are concerns that the dry spring may affect the yield potential.

Nutrition

All completed other than late foliar nitrogen.

Weed pressure

Wild oats are appearing in crops across the south. Wild oats are a very competitive weed and the seeds can remain in the seedbank for many years. Broadleaved weed control has been effective where robust herbicide rates have been used.

Pest pressure

Gout fly is widely reported, and insecticides applied. However, there are no reports of significant damage to date. Aphids remain below threshold levels, and there are no BYDV reports

Disease pressure

Yellow rust is reported, primarily on KWS Cochise. Mildew and Septoria are also present, but generally well controlled.

Prospects for the coming months

Prospects are mixed. Late-sown crops are likely to yield poorly, due to the dry spring.

SPRING BARLEY

Crop establishment

Crops are typically between GS51 to GS 69. Early drilled crops are in better condition and fared better in the dry spring, than later drilled crops. Dry conditions are affecting those on light land.

Nutrition

Fertiliser applications are complete, with timely rains washing the nitrogen into the soil.

Weed pressure

Some late wild oat flushes have been seen, despite treatments. However, numbers are not high, but even these can cause yield losses. Patchy establishment has made timing herbicides tricky for some. Fields with good canopy cover have outcompeted late-emerging weed species.

Pest pressure

BYDV is reported in the Midlands and the North, but yield impacts are unlikely. Cereal leaf beetles have also been seen. Treatment is not normally required, but if the damaged area covers more than 15% of the leaf, or the flag leaf is badly affected, growers might consider using an insecticide spray. Aphids remain below treatment threshold levels.

Disease pressure

Disease pressure is generally low. Some ramularia and rynchosporium is reported, but levels are largely determined by plant variety and fungicide timing.

Prospects for the coming months

Generally average, although expectations are higher in the East Midlands and Yorkshire.

SPRING OATS

Crop establishment

As with other spring crops, early-sown crops have established better and have better yield potential. Some crops in lighter soil have been affected by low soil moisture.

Nutrition

Fertiliser applications are now complete.

Weed pressure

Well established plants with a good canopy are outcompeting many weeds, but some wild oats remain present. In general, oats are grown on land with fewer grass weed issues.

Pest pressure

Minor BYDV issues, and aphid numbers reported below treatment threshold levels. Localised cereal leaf beetle outbreaks have been seen but are unlikely to be damaging.

Disease pressure

Mildew and crown rust are present, but fungicide control has generally been effective.

Prospects for the coming months

Generally average, with higher expectations in the East Midlands and Yorkshire.

SPRING OILSEED RAPE

Crop establishment

Establishment has been mixed, with some crops affected by dry soil, CSFB and pigeon damage. Presently, 12% of the SOSR crops is graded as poor/very poor. Those crops that have escaped too much damage have reached the flowering stage, with 55% of the crop graded as good or excellent.

Nutrition

All seedbed nutrition has been applied.

Weed pressure

Broadleaved weeds are an issue for some, where CSFB and pigeons have thinned out the crop.

Pest pressure

CSFB and pigeons have been causing damage to crops and affecting crop growth.

Disease pressure

Some Sclerotinia and light leaf spot is reported.

Prospects for the coming months

Fair, dependent on weather and pest activity.