



AHDB Harvest Report

Report 1

Week Ending- 30 July 2019

Prepared by ADAS

Overview

This harvest report has been prepared by ADAS for AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds, using data supplied by regional reporters (mostly independent agronomists). The approach used is consistent with previous years allowing comparison of data and provides a snapshot of harvest progress throughout the harvest season. All harvest reports run from Wednesday to Tuesday – with data reported for the week ending on a Tuesday e.g. WE30 July. A full data dashboard of progress is available [here](#).

Harvest started in the south on WE9 July with small areas of winter barley harvested. Over the last two weeks harvest of winter barley and winter oilseed rape in southern and eastern England started in earnest with an estimated 49% of the GB winter barley area and 31% of the GB winter oilseed rape areas harvested to WE30 July. An estimated 350Kha of winter barley and winter oilseed rape were harvested in the WE30 July, with 53Kha harvested the previous weeks. This places current progress ahead of 2015 and 2016 but slightly slower than last year's progress (which was at 75% for winter barley and 30% for winter oilseed rape).

Early yield indications are good with winter barley yields in southern and eastern England currently reported to be up by 13-17% compared to the 5 year average of 7.0t/ha. Early winter oilseed rape yields are 3-12% down on the five year average of 3.5t/ha.

Quality of early harvested winter barley is based on a relatively small number of samples processed to date. Specific weights of these samples typically range from 64-67kg/hl. Nitrogen contents typically range from 1.5-1.7%. Early oil contents from winter oilseed rape are lower than recent years, typically 41-45%.

Weather throughout July was changeable with periods of settled dry weather interspersed with periods of unsettled showery weather. The hottest day on record in the UK was recorded on 25 July with temperatures peaking in Cambridgeshire at over 38°C. The weather then broke with scattered heavy thundery showers affecting most of the country. However, with relatively warm temperatures and drying winds the showers rarely delayed harvest for long.

The high temperatures on 25 July coincided with the greatest amount of harvest activity over the period. This means that much of the grain harvested to 30 July required cooling prior to storage. The thunderstorms and associated heavy rain caused lodging in some winter barley, spring barley, wheat and oat crops, predominantly on the overlaps. Those who harvested lodged winter barley fields have still experienced good yields.

Winter Barley

Harvest update

An estimated 49% of GB winter barley was harvested by WE30 July.

Harvest started the first week of July with small areas of winter barley harvested in the South West, South East and Eastern regions. However the main start of harvest in these regions and the Midlands took place in WE30 July. During WE30 July an estimated 200Kha of winter barley was harvested. By 30 July the East Midlands had completed about half their area. Further south, harvest progress ranged from 70-95% complete whilst Northern regions were only just starting.

Harvest progress is slightly behind the early harvests of the last two years but ahead of the later harvests experienced in 2015 and 2016.

Heavy rain in the run up to harvest led to lodging in circa 7% of crops. This was mostly confined to headlands and spray overlaps, although in some more exposed fields lodging was more widespread. At this stage in harvest lodging is having little impact on quality or yield.

The majority of winter barley harvested to date has been close to 14% moisture content, although there are occasional reports of moistures dropping to 12.5%. Low moistures mean that drying has not been required. However, with the hot temperatures experienced last week grain temperatures were typically in the high 20s and have therefore required cooling before storage.

Yields

The current yield estimate for winter barley is 7.9-8.2t/ha, this is a 13-17% increase on the 5 year average yield of 7.0t/ha. This is based on early harvested crops from the South and East.

Overall yield reports have been good with reports of farm yields ranging from 6.0-10.0t/ha. The lowest yields are currently being reported on lighter soils where moisture has been limited, whilst the better yields are those from hybrid varieties on heavier soils.

Quality

It should be noted at this stage in harvest that quality data is only available for a small number of crops that were harvested in the south and east of England. It is therefore expected to change as more crops are analysed. There are no mycotoxin issues to report.

Specific weight – Typical range of 64-67kg/hl.

Screenings – Typical reports are around 2-5%.

Grain nitrogen (malting varieties) – Ranging from 1.5 to 1.7%.

Moisture – Moisture contents averaging at 14%, with minimal drying required.

Germination – Reports show germination levels reaching 90% in the East and 98% in the South West.

Winter oilseed rape

Harvest update

An estimated 31% of the GB winter oilseed rape (OSR) area was harvested by 30 July.

Occasional crops were harvested in WE23 July, with an estimated 3% of the GB area cut. However, the main start to harvest occurred in WE30 July with an estimated 140Kha harvested in that week.

Harvest progress is close to average, slightly behind progress made in 2017 and 2018, but ahead of the later harvests of 2015 and 2016. The main areas of activity were in the Eastern region, South East and South West, with harvest only just starting in the East Midlands, West Midlands and Yorkshire. Further north crops are only just ripening for harvest.

The hot dry period in the early part of the WE30 July meant that moisture levels in OSR crops harvested tended to be lower than ideal. Some farmers opted to harvest early in the morning or late in the evening where possible to try and raise moisture contents. The reported range of moisture contents is between 6-8%.

Cabbage stem flea beetle (CSFB) adults were active in oilseed rape crops through until harvest, with evidence of feeding present on pods of severely affected crops. Where CSFB numbers were high, pyrethroid applications were made shortly before desiccation.

Lodging is present in about 5% of GB crops, with Yorkshire and Humber having up to 9% of crops affected.

Yields

The current estimated average yield for winter OSR is 3.1-3.4t/ha. This is 3-12% down on the 5 year average yield of 3.5t/ha. This estimate is based on early harvested crops in the South and East.

Farm yields are highly variable following a difficult year for OSR growers where high levels of crop loss were experienced. This resulted in some crops lacking plant numbers come harvest. Farm yields range from 2.0-3.6t/ha. The poorest yields were reported on fields that suffered partial crop losses earlier in the season due to poor establishment, CSFB damage, pigeon grazing and more recently, lack of soil moisture availability, especially on light soils. The extreme temperatures experienced in WE30 July and subsequent low moistures have also contributed to lower yields. The best yields have been reported in areas where CSFB was not widely active through the growing season.

Quality

The high temperatures and low moisture has led to concerns over lower than normal oil content. Eastern regions report early indications that pods are small, and this has been associated with reduced oil content. Few samples have been analysed to date, with more results expected back in the next week. The data below is from a small number of early harvested crops from the south and east.

Oil content –Between 41 and45%.

Moisture – Very little drying required. Eastern regions have been harvesting at night to keep moisture above 7%. Average moisture levels are around 7%, dropping as low as 6% for crops harvested before WE30 July.

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