

## NOTE

This is the first harvest report of the 2022/23 season and covers the beginning of harvest up to 19 July 2022. It is produced with data collected by RSK ADAS Ltd and compiled by AHDB. 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.

This early report is based solely on data from the South East, South West, Eastern and East Midlands regions, with an indication of harvest progress elsewhere in the country. Therefore, early yield and quality data is very much skewed, and should not be considered to be representative of the whole country.

Grain and seed moistures from early harvested crops are below the standard 14.5% for winter barley and 8% for oilseed rape. Therefore, the reported yields are unadjusted.

## OVERVIEW

The hot and dry weather has continued across the UK throughout July, with an average UK air temperature of 18.7°C recorded during the week ending 12 July. This is 2.6°C above the long-term average. The week ending 19 July saw continued high temperatures in excess of 30°C. Across the UK, the average rainfall for the week ending 12 July was only 0.1 mm.

The dry weather has enabled farmers to make a good start to the winter barley and winter oilseed rape harvest in Southern and Eastern regions of England. **Winter barley harvest progress has been exceptionally rapid with 69% of the English, Welsh and Scottish harvest already complete.** The next earliest harvest was 2006, where 45% was complete by week 2.

Where farmers have completed the winter barley and winter oilseed rape (WOSR) harvest in Eastern and Southern regions, a start has been made on winter wheat harvest.

Concerns over combine fires and hot grain have been at the forefront of farmers' minds. As a result, combines have been rolling late at night and early in the morning to combat the high temperatures. However, high overnight temperatures are hampering attempts to cool hot grain before entering the grain store.

## WINTER BARLEY

### Harvest update

By the 19 July, it is estimated that 69% of the GB winter barley area was harvested.

Harvest started for the most forward crops on the lightest land in the first week of July, with the full campaign starting in earnest on the 11 July.

Rapid progress means that winter barley harvest is well ahead of previous years across the majority of Great Britain. Harvest has started in all regions, with progress ranging from 20% complete in the North West to over 90% complete in the South West and Eastern regions.

Overall, very little grain drying has been required so far. In the East there have been concerns around some grain being too dry, which has led to farmers harvesting crops early in the morning/late in the evening to maintain moisture content. While drying hasn't been necessary, cooling has been required to lower temperatures from upwards of 30°C. However, warm evening temperatures is reducing the efficacy of this process.

Very little lodging has been reported.

### Yields

Early yield indications are good, with yields from the South trending slightly above the five-year average. The current yield estimate for winter barley is 6.8 - 7.2t/ha. This is mainly based off data from the South and East of England

Early yields reported have ranged from 5.0 – 9.5 t/ha (at below average moisture). The better yields that have been reported are from heavier land, and the lower yields from light land that suffered water stress during grainfill.

### Quality

This is the first report in the series, with the volume of processed samples low. As a result, quality reports are expected to change once more crops are analysed.

**Specific weight** – Specific weights are currently coming in relatively high, ranging between 66 – 70 kg/hl.

**Screenings** – Low screenings being reported on farm, ranging between 2-5%.

**Grain nitrogen (for malting varieties)** – Nitrogen levels are averaging between 1.6% and 1.8%, based off limited data.

**Moisture** – With hot and dry conditions, very little grain drying has been required. Grain moistures are averaging between 13% and 14%.

**Germination** – There is currently limited data for germination levels. The next report should include a range for germination percentages.

## WINTER OILSEED RAPE

### Harvest update

Overall, 28% of the GB WOSR area has been harvested up to 19 July. This is based on data mainly from the South and Eastern regions.

WOSR harvest in the South and East is well progressed ranging from 50 - 75% complete. However, in the West Midlands and further north harvest was only just starting or not yet underway. Overall, harvest progress is slightly ahead of recent years, where typically 4-15% is complete by the end of Week 2.

There have been concerns of crop and combine fires, as well as logistics of cooling grain to make it safe to store and transport. There have been reports of some end users not transporting samples that are over 24°C. Little to no WOSR has been dried, in fact there are concerns around maintaining moisture content above 6% to avoid penalties. This has led to farmers harvesting crops in the evening.

### Yields

Based on early progress, national yields are currently averaging between 3.0 - 3.4t/ha. This yield estimate is based on progress made in the East, East Midlands and Southern regions. Additional data from the remainder of the crop could change the yield estimates.

Early on farm yield reports are highly variable ranging between 2.0 – 5.0t/ha nationally. Crops with better establishment, grown on heavier land and have had reduced pest pressure are yielding higher.

### Quality

There is currently limited quality data available for WOSR, with low levels of processed samples. More information will likely be available by the next report.

**Oil content** - currently averaging between 43% and 45%, with a range of 43% to 46%.

**Moisture** - the hot and dry conditions has led to little or no WOSR needing to be dried. Currently, the range stands at 6% to 8% from limited data. Though this could change on increased data availability. There have been some concerns around keeping moisture content, with some harvesting at night to try and keep moisture levels within requirements.