



BEST PRACTICE GUIDE

Latest news and views on OSR management

Minimising Flea Beetle Damage with Later Sowing

Sowing in the first half of September is being recognised as one of the best ways of combatting flea beetle. Earlier sowing can help OSR grow away from adult beetle grazing. However, the latest ADAS evidence supports DEKALB experience that later egg-laying and slower larval development at cooler temperatures mean crops emerging after the peak of flea beetle migration in late-August suffer less from larvae than earlier sown ones.

This understanding will be particularly welcome for those struggling to combine cereals and work ground in a frustratingly wet summer, believes DEKALB technical specialist, Richard Phillips.

"There is nothing OSR hates more than being put into wet or poorly structured ground," he insists. "This will only make it more vulnerable to flea beetle, not to mention slugs."

"The very worst thing to do when it's wet is rush into drilling; especially when later sowing is likely to be the best way to minimise flea beetle damage anyway."

DEKALB growers regularly achieve high levels of performance from sowing up to the middle of September. And this is also known to reduce risks from light leaf spot, clubroot and verticillium in most years.

Shorter days and lower temperatures do, however, put the onus firmly on the best establishment practice to get crops sufficiently well-grown ahead of the winter.

Top September Sowing Tips

Richard Phillips highlights six keys to successful establishment of particular importance with September sowing:

- Choose the fastest-developing as well as most vigorously-establishing hybrids.
- Remove any soil compaction effectively ahead of drilling.
- Drill only when conditions enable rapid germination and robust early growth.
- Sow to a consistent 2-3 cm at rates targeting 25-40 plants/m² in spring.
- Place available phosphate as well as nitrogen in the seedbed.
- Consolidate thoroughly and evenly within 24-48 hours of sowing.



BEST VARIETIES FOR LATE-SOWING

DK Extrovert and **DK Exalte** have become firm farmer favourites for a speed of autumn development which allows them cope well with later sowing and grow away from early pest pressures.

Offering similarly robust growth, disease and pod shatter resistance traits with a step forward in gross output are their natural successors, **DK Exstar**, **DK Expansion** and **DK Expedient**.

DK Exstar stands out as the first OSR with across-the-board ratings of 8 or more for light leaf spot resistance, phoma resistance, lodging resistance and stem stiffness, making it the best all-round risk management choice.

Alongside it, **DK Expansion** – newly added to the Recommended List – has delivered exceptionally well for growers across the country this season. What is more, both it and the fastest autumn and earliest spring developer of all, **DK Expedient** have proved their worth in countering both serious adult flea beetle pressures and devastating larval damage.

In addition to their rapid development abilities, DEKALB Clearfield varieties, **DK Imperial CL**, **DK Impression CL** and **DK Importer CL** showed an important establishment edge for many last season in their tolerance of ALS herbicide residues from spring weed control.

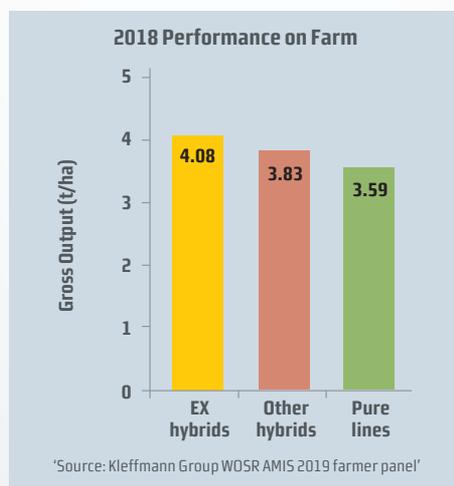
National Data Confirms 'Ex' Superiority

DEKALB varieties markedly out-performed both pure lines and other mainstream double low hybrids on farm in 2018, reveals the most recent authoritative data on commercial OSR performance. And this superiority extended across all drilling dates, establishment regimes and soil types, underlining their particular reliability and value.

The industry leading, 400-strong Kleffmann Group WOSR AMIS™ 2019 farmer panel, carefully selected to be representative of British growers secured farm yields and oil contents from more than 65 varieties across the country.

Proving their commercial ability - as distinct from performance in small plot trials - the gross output of the 10 'Ex' varieties in the nationwide sample averaged 4.08t/ha.

This compared with just 3.59t/ha for the 21 conventional varieties and 3.83t/ha for the 23 other 'double low' hybrids – excluding all Clearfield, clubroot resistant and specialist oil varieties for the fairest comparison.



For more information on DEKALB varieties plus grower & agronomist reports & views visit www.DEKALB.co.uk

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