



GatePost

FROM THE BREEDER | Limagrain UK

Dominating the 2023/24 AHDB Recommended List



WILL CHARLTON
Arable Marketing Manager

It's a grand slam as Limagrain UK's exciting new wheat, winter barley and oilseed rape varieties, take leading positions across the 2023/24 AHDB Recommended List.

LG Redwald sets a new standard for high yielding wheats, yielding 107% in the UK, (107% in the east and 109% in the west). As a soft wheat, the variety also offers potential for distilling.

These high yields have been consistently proven across National List trials, over seasons, drilling date and soil type, particularly in the second wheat and later drilling situations.

LG REDWALD
Secures pole position as the highest yielding winter wheat

LG CARAVELLE
Is the highest yielding two row winter barley

ATTICA
Joins as the highest yielding oilseed rape variety, with the essential turnip yellows (TuYV) and pod shatter resistance traits

LG WAGNER
Is the highest yielding addition to the northern OSR Recommended List

LG Redwald has an excellent disease resistance profile, with very good Septoria resistance, as well as orange wheat blossom midge (OWBM) resistance.

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“ It is an exciting variety that should deliver for growers in 2023/24, if supported with good agronomic practise to ensure it meets its full potential on farm, and comes at a time when growers are looking more than ever to maximise output in order to maintain profit in times of increasing costs. ”

says Ron Granger,
Arable Technical Manager.

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LG CARAVELLE



LG Caravelle is the highest yielding two row winter barley to join the 2023/24 Recommended List. LG Caravelle dispels any misconception that two row barleys are lower yielding than hybrids.

It offers UK yields of 106.3% - which is as good as the top yielding hybrid barley variety - and yields 2% above hybrids in the east.

These high yields are backed up by an excellent disease profile, reflected in LG Caravelle's high untreated yields. LG Caravelle also offers an exceptionally high specific weight for a winter barley, of 71.8 kg/hl.

It is an early maturing variety with stiff straw; both important characteristics for a winter barley.

Attica is a newly recommended fully loaded hybrid OSR with full UK recommendation. It joins the Recommended List as the highest yielding variety to combine stable high yields with the genetic security of TuYV and pod shatter resistance traits.

Attica has a strong autumn growth habit, offering growers a wide drilling window and a very good disease resistance package.

LG Wagner joins the 2023/24 north Recommended List as the highest yielding variety (108.1%). In 2022, it was the highest yielding variety, also offering the security of pod shatter and TuYV resistance. It is a shorter hybrid with stiff stems, combined with solid light leaf spot resistance and good stem health.



“This is a tremendous achievement and is the first time that any breeder has achieved this level of success across all of the cropping sectors in the last decade, if not longer,” says William Charlton.

“We believe this success is built on our unique UK focussed breeding approach, which means we are able to select for the UK's maritime climate from day one in the breeding programme. This allows us to look for consistently high yielding varieties from the very start of our programme, to suit UK growers and end user requirements.”

IN SEARCH OF MARGINAL GAINS



LIAM WILKINSON
Development Officer
for Arable Crops

In my development work with the Limagrain UK oilseed rape portfolio, I've progressively seen marginal gains every year. Advances in trait stacking genetics have provided much greater yield stability, allowing us to get the best on farm performance out of our OSR varieties.

Micronutrition is one of the areas in which marginal gains are still possible. In varieties with higher yield potential and security, a focus on micronutrition can offer a good return on investment.

I have rarely walked an OSR crop that doesn't show some level of boron deficiency. Boron is one of the most crucial micronutrients in OSR plant growth, yet is one that is the hardest to test for, with soil testing being one of the most inaccurate that can be carried out. Typical symptoms are cracked, hollow stems, uneven flowering, and reduced pod set.

Boron uptake is poor in low soil temperatures, and it is prone to leaching, following high winter rainfall. This means that it is not often readily available to the crop in early spring, especially to crops with underdeveloped root systems.

As an industry, we are seeing a trend towards varieties that have better spring vigour, can put down bigger roots before any spring droughts, and grow away from pigeon or cabbage stem flea beetle (CSFB) larvae damage. This means varieties such as LG Aviron and LG Scorpion are starting stem extension much earlier than traditional varieties, whilst soils are still cold, and crucially, elements like boron are not as available to the crop.

Foliar boron should be considered as a staple inclusion in all OSR nutrition plans. Late autumn, to accompany propyzamide applications, early spring and flowering are the key inclusion timings for foliar boron. This will help with cell wall development at a time when the crop is growing rapidly, leading to a more even flowering and pod set.

“Boron is one of the most crucial micronutrients in OSR plant growth, yet is one of the hardest to test for.”



Register Here

With this topic of micronutrition in mind, we have partnered with YARA on a joint OSR nutrition event near our head office in North Lincolnshire on **Weds 8th March 2023**. We will be running an online webinar on **Weds 8th February 2023** to further discuss the topics of how to get the best out of our genetics.

To register your interest, visit: <https://bit.ly/3UlsRiv>

Or Scan QR Code





DIRECT DRILLED LG DIABLO PERFORMS IN ONE OF THE DRIEST SEASONS ON RECORD



RON GRANGER
Arable Technical Manager

A move to direct drilling LG Diablo spring barley has proven successful for Berwickshire grower Neil White, as yields and quality impressed in a challenging season.

Mr White has been direct drilling crops for the past seven years at the 260 ha (650-acre) Greenknowe Farm near Duns, but until this season, had not established spring barley this way.

“Barley has been the last crop I’ve gone over to direct drilling with, but we successfully tried it on two-thirds of our area last spring, sowing directly into overwintered stubble. We will direct drill all of our barley again this spring, either into overwintered stubble or after a cover crop.

“It’s really pleasing for me to see that LG Diablo works in that direct drilled scenario, and still produces a good yield and grain quality. I’m very happy with it.”

The farm’s target spring barley yield is usually around 7.4-8.6 t/ha (3-3.5 t/acre), and this year’s 35 ha of LG Diablo was at the top end of that range, despite some very dry conditions during the growing season.

NEIL WHITE



Quality was good too, with nitrogen coming in at 1.52%, and specific weight at 67.4 kg/hl, allowing everything to meet the malting specification required by grain buyer, Simpsons Malt.

“It produced a nice bold grain, despite the very dry spell. Everything hit the spec for malting, which is spot on.”

Mr White acknowledges there were a few light grains this season, which he attributes to the lack of rain, preventing some grain from maturing and filling fully. “We certainly haven’t seen any issues with screenings before, so I’m sure it’s due to the year, not the variety.”

Maximising establishment

Mr White recognises that his Mzuri drill does move more soil than other direct drills, but believes this benefits barley establishment in the spring, as it helps aerate the soil, warm it up and mineralise some nitrogen.

Switching from a combination drill to the Mzuri has also allowed him to sow spring barley at variable seed rates to account for establishment differences on varied soil types, and put fertiliser ‘down the spout’ with seed, to get crops off to a good start.

Seed rates last season typically ranged from 380-440 seeds/m² on the variable soils, with crops sown on 33cm rows. That is a much wider spacing than spring barley is conventionally sown at, but he believes LG Diablo’s vigour enables it to fill the gaps between rows nicely.

“Also, it doesn’t brackle, which is something that is always a threat if weather turns catchy at harvest, especially on wider rows.”

Wider benefits of direct drilling

- Soil carries machinery better when it is not ploughed
- Moving less soil reduces total fuel consumption which saves money and improves the carbon credentials of direct-drilled malting barley



“It produced a nice bold grain, despite the very dry spell. Everything hit the spec for malting, which is spot on.”

“Because LG Diablo is so consistent, and benefits from dual use approval for brewing and distilling, it’s got the ability to compete with, and hold its ground against any new varieties coming along.”

In demand from distillers

LG Diablo’s consistency is valued by end users too, says Mike Dagg, Senior Grain Trader at Simpsons Malt, who expects it to remain one of the top two varieties grown in Scotland for distilling over coming years.

“We’ve had the variety for five or six years now, and we know it goes through the malting process very well. If it performs well going through the malting process, then there’s every chance the malt product will also do well going through distilling too.”

Indeed, over the past few years, LG Diablo has shown consistently good performance in distilleries, both in terms of spirit yields and processability, which ultimately leads to good efficiency and maintains demand for the variety, he says.

“LG Diablo is now pretty universally accepted by the majority of the Scottish distilling industry, and I don’t really see that changing anytime soon.

“Because LG Diablo is so consistent, and benefits from dual use approval for brewing and distilling, it’s got the ability to compete with, and hold its ground against any new varieties coming along. I don’t see anything coming through breeding programmes currently that suggests LG Diablo and Laureate will lose their dominance in the Scottish distilling market.”





CLOVERS - REDUCING FERTILISER USE



JOHN SPENCE
Forage Crops
Product Manager

The agricultural press has been full of articles covering the impact of fertiliser price rises over the last year, with headlines being focussed predominantly on methods of reducing Nitrogen application rates.

The advantages for livestock farmers are clear, but clovers (and grass/clover leys) can also improve soil organic matter, earthworm populations and soil structure in arable rotations, whilst also leaving residual N for the following crop.

Arable farmers struggling to find a market for a crop of clover (or grass and clover) may be able to take advantage of ELMS/CSS options such as AB15 Two-year legume fallow. Mixtures such as Legume 2, bring all the benefits of clovers whilst also being eligible for CSS payments.

It is clear that improvements have been made across the industry to reduce reliance on inorganic fertilisers but continued environmental legislation and financial pressure mean the subject is unlikely to fall out of the spotlight any time soon.

Clovers can play an important part on any farm looking to optimise nutrient inputs.

What is less well reported is that growers have actually been reducing their use of inorganic fertilisers since the early 1980's and this change has contributed to the reduction in estimated greenhouse gas emissions from UK agriculture over the last two decades.

The biggest reductions in N use have been seen on grassland farms where fertiliser use has halved. Whilst potentially good news for the environment, this reduction may be limiting profitability as even at the current fertiliser price levels, the cost of Nitrogen applications to grassland can be justified by increased forage yields.

One way of maintaining grassland yields with lower inputs is to ensure that leys include a good proportion of clover. But DEFRA reports that only 13% of livestock farmers include clovers in all their leys, with 25% not including any clover at all. This seems like a huge, missed opportunity.

A grass sward with a good white clover content can produce as much forage as one receiving 180kg N/ha. On a 100ha grassland farm this is equivalent of 52 tonnes of ammonium nitrate fertiliser. Red clover has even more impressive figures and can fix as much as 250kg N/ha.

Making sure a newly reseeded ley includes clover is more important than ever. Where clover isn't present, it can be successfully oversown into an existing sward using pelleted Cloverplus. The pellet enables more accurate sowing and most importantly improves establishment.



“ One way of maintaining grassland yields with lower inputs is to ensure that leys include a good proportion of clover. ”

SPRING BARLEY AGRONOMY SERIES



Introducing our Spring Barley AgRONomy video series, with commentary and technical advice from Limagrain UK's Arable Technical Manager, Ron Granger. The videos take you through how to identify the local market requirements, to variety choice, drilling dates and seed rates, with the 5th video providing tips on how to maintain a higher tiller number.

1. Know your local market requirements



SCAN TO VIEW

2. Choose the right variety



SCAN TO VIEW

3. Date of drilling



SCAN TO VIEW

4. Seed rate



SCAN TO VIEW

5. Maintain higher tiller number



SCAN TO VIEW

LG Diablo Testimonial



SCAN TO VIEW

“ There's no hiding the fact that it's a great yielder. ”
David, Fife





2023 OPEN DAYS

From where we stand now, in deepest darkest February, the long days and warm nights feel like a distant prospect, but here at LG HQ, we are already preparing for a busy summer show season.



With a tightly packed schedule of events to attend, our small but perfectly formed team of experts spend much of June and July travelling the length and breadth of the UK, bringing our learning, expertise and innovation to you, the grower.

Ron Granger and Liam Wilkinson come with a combined half century of experience in agriculture, unparalleled knowledge and practical experience of cultivating LG's formidable cereals and oilseeds portfolio, alongside notoriously unbiased opinions.

If you have a burning question about future variety selection, nutrition or establishment, no doubt you will run into one or both if you are attending any of the diverse range of agricultural events that punctuate the busy summer months.

If you are growing or thinking about growing an LG variety and are looking to achieve a deeper understanding of where they sit in the current market, or indeed fit with your own very particular conditions, we would urge you to register for one of our summer demo days.



Limagrain UK

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Alongside the usual trials tours and opportunity to catch up and exchange ideas with colleagues and other industry professionals, we will be running a programme of talks and seminars, with the prospect to hear from the breeders as well as brand partners.

You can catch us at:

- Woolpit - 20th June
- Newbury - 21st June
- Maldon - 23rd June
- Rothwell - 4th July
- Perth - 26th July



Scan the code to register for our **2023 Open Days**

BASIS and NRoSO Points

By reading this issue of LG Gatepost, you can claim BASIS and/or NRoSO points. To do so, go to <https://bit.ly/3vsg2HQ>



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