



RON GRANGER
Arable Technical
Manager

Limagrain Varieties Top the 2024/25 RL

Plant breeder Limagrain UK's winter wheat LG Beowulf and 2-row winter barley LG Caravelle are the highest yielding varieties to join the 2024/25 AHDB Recommended List.

LG Armada also takes lead position as the highest yielding oilseed rape variety on the Recommended List for the UK, whilst LG Adeline takes pole position for oilseed rape in the North.

In addition, high yielding maize variety Saxon tops the 2024 BSPB Forage Maize Descriptive List for ME yield ('000s MJ/ha).

“ This means that LG now offer the **highest yielding varieties** in; winter wheat, 2-row winter barley, OSR and maize* - an exceptional achievement for any breeder! **”**

explains Ron Granger, Limagrain UK's arable technical manager.

“Last year our winter wheat and winter barley varieties took pole positions across the RL. We've built on this success for a second year running, producing higher yielding varieties, backed up with the agronomic characteristics that growers

need to secure high yield performance on-farm. What's more, these varieties have proven to be robust and consistent performers across varying seasons and regions.”

Group 4 hard wheat LG Beowulf yields 106% across the UK and shows the same consistency of performance across all regions: east (106%), west (106%) and the north (107%) - an outstanding performance for any variety.



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LG Beowulf has produced these exceptionally high yields consistently in National List and RL trials over regions and seasons, in both the unusually dry summer of 2022, as well as the exceptionally wet summer of 2023. Alongside these yields, it offers a good grain quality, with a specific weight of 78.3 kg/hl.

“LG Beowulf performs wherever you grow it,” he says. “It can be drilled early or late - providing growers with a wide drilling window, as a first or second wheat, on light or heavy land, and there are very few varieties that meet this criterion” he says.

LG Beowulf yields are backed up by a set of strong agronomic characteristics, offering an excellent disease resistance profile with ratings of 9 for yellow rust, 6.7 for septoria, as well as orange wheat blossom midge (OWBM) resistance.

It has very stiff straw and is rated 8 for standing in untreated and PGR treated trials, which strongly contributes to its reliability on-farm.

“In summary, **LG Beowulf** is a very high yielding, robust and versatile variety, that comes at a time when growers are looking more than ever to maximise output.”

LG Caravelle is the highest yielding two-row winter barley for the second year running, since joining the Recommended List in 2023.

“Offering UK yields of 105.6%, LG Caravelle continues to dispel any misconception that two-row barleys are lower yielding than hybrids. The variety certainly competes with the best yielding hybrid barleys, especially in the east,” says Mr Granger. “LG Caravelle is competitive in a black-grass situation, another characteristic that is normally associated with hybrids.”

“LG Caravelle’s high yields are backed up by an excellent disease resistance profile, reflected in its superb untreated performance. It is early maturing with stiff straw and has good brackling resistance.”

“**LG Caravelle** is the highest yielding two-row winter barley for the second year running.”

“LG Caravelle also offers an exceptionally high specific weight for a winter barley, of 71.4 kg/hl, combined with low screenings percentage,” he adds.

“Indeed, LG Caravelle possesses all of the key characteristics for a winter barley.”

LG Capitol is a two-row winter barley that joins the Recommended List this year and is a sister variety to LG Caravelle, offering similar yields and consistency of performance over seasons and regions. Its yields sit just 0.1% behind that of LG Caravelle, at 105.5%.

LG Capitol combines a high specific weight and ripening similar to KWS Tardis, with a solid disease resistance profile and good straw attributes.

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Oilseed Rape

The top three highest yielding oilseed rape varieties on the 2024/25 AHDB Recommended List all come from the Limagrain stable, offering exceptional consistency over regions and seasons.

LG Armada tops the UK and E/W List at 107%, **LG Academic** follows 1% behind at 106%, with **LG Adeline** taking pole position on the Northern List, with an outstanding yield of 108.3%.

LG Armada is one of the next generation of versatile high yielding oilseed rape varieties, improving on the characteristic trait-loaded hybrids that growers have come to expect from Limagrain.

“‘Ambassador-like’ in its growth habit, LG Armada has strong autumn vigour and is robust, with good adaptability to all regions of the UK” says Limagrain UK’s oilseeds product manager, Liam Wilkinson.

“LG Armada is the first of our seventh-generation of hybrids, bringing new maintainer and restorer lines to our OSR portfolio. This means we’re bringing varieties to market that offer growers a stacked portfolio of much improved stem health attributes, alongside the standard pod shatter, TuYV and RLM7 resistance traits.”

“We know stem health is key to driving consistent oilseed rape yields across farms and with these seventh-generation hybrids, we’re seeing bigger stems and better rooting, which also results in higher oil content” he says.

“**LG Armada** is the first of our seventh-generation of hybrids, bringing new maintainer and restorer lines to our OSR portfolio.”

Topping the Maize Descriptive List

Limagrain UK’s maize variety, **Saxon** was originally added to the 2023 BSPB/NIAB Forage Maize Descriptive List and has made the top of the list for 2024 for its ME yield of 225 (‘000s MJ/ha). It has dry matter yields of 19.1 t/ha, making it ideal for all uses, including anaerobic digestion.

“On the Descriptive List, Saxon yields 105% of the average and is quite an early variety with an FAO of 180,” says Tim Richmond, Limagrain UK’s maize product manager.

“Saxon combines superb early vigour with good standing power, making it

perfectly suited for all mainstream maize sites.”

“LGAN has long been the watchword for maize varieties that deliver what really counts - high yields of high-quality feeds that sustain excellent milk yields. Saxon is one of the latest examples of the benefit of breeding varieties that deliver in the clamp.”

“**Saxon** yields 105% of the average and is quite an early variety with an FAO of 180.”



EARLY MATURING MAIZE PROVES PIVOTAL IN ROTATION



TIM RICHMOND
Maize Manager
UK & Ireland

Increasing the maize acreage in their arable rotation has proven very successful for Richard and Fred White at their 650ha mixed unit at Swan Farm, near Atherstone, Warwickshire.

Seen firstly as a good alternative break crop to oilseed rape - which is difficult to grow due to flea beetle damage - maize is now a valuable forage for their beef finishing enterprise

as well as an additional cash crop sold to neighbouring dairy and goat farms.

Key to maize fitting into the rotation and operational schedule at Swan Farm, is the use of a very early maturing variety, with Limagrain's **Gema** fitting the bill well for the past two years.

"Harvesting a fully mature maize crop as early as possible is important for a number of reasons," explains Richard White. "Firstly, we are supplying longstanding customers that want the maize as soon as possible, but we also want the fields cleared so that we can prepare the ground for drilling winter wheat."

"This year, we harvested 52ha of Gema on 20th September, which was our contractor's first outing of the season. We weigh representative trailer loads, so we know what we're selling, with the crop averaging over 20 tonnes/acre fresh weight."

Fresh crop samples were taken just before harvest, with the analysis coming back at 32% dry matter, 34.4% starch and 11.5 MJ/kg ME, indicating optimum maturity and a high feed value forage.

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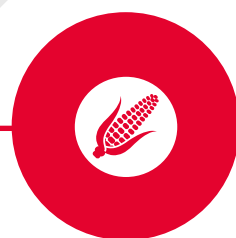
Richard harvested 52ha of Gema maize on 20th September, averaging 20 tonnes/acre fresh weight.

Richard White grows maize for his own beef herd and longstanding customers, using Gema to ensure the crop is ready to be harvested as soon as possible.



Maize is drilled relatively early at Swan Farm - in part, to ensure this job is out of the way before the farm's fodder beet goes in - with the 2023 maize crop being sown in the last week of April.

"This is another reason why a very early variety like Gema works so well for us," adds Richard. "Fodder beet is another important break crop in our rotation, and - like the maize - it is both a cash crop that we sell as well as a valuable feed for our own sheep. By harvesting the maize as early as we do, it's out of the way before we're into lifting fodder beet. The two crops work well together in this way."



THE BENEFITS OF OILSEEDS IN YOUR ROTATION



LIAM WILKINSON
Oilseeds
Product Manager

With the most recent AHDB early bird survey estimating that the UK winter oilseed rape area has declined by 16% for harvest 2024, partially due to the challenges around establishment, it is easy to overlook the benefits that OSR can bring into an arable rotation.

Whilst of course it is important that crops are economically viable, the bigger picture in terms of what added value OSR has to growers, should not be taken for granted. So, whilst growers may begin to question the place of OSR in the rotation, it is worth considering the following benefits:

- **OSR offers a great opportunity to maximise workloads on farm.** In terms of the drilling, it is outside that of the main cereal drilling window and with TuYV resistance in the LG portfolio, early drilling can be achieved without having to worry about virus pressures from aphids. With respect to harvest and input timings, it is typically not aligned with cereal crops, meaning that in difficult seasons, workload on time sensitive crops such as cereal fungicide timings, are reduced.
- **Weed control is an important factor to consider** with any break crop, but following 2 years of difficult grass weed control in cereals, products such as AstroKerb (propyzamide & aminopyralid) offer an opportunity to get on top of difficult to control grass weeds, such as bromes and blackgrass. Where charlock and other brassica weeds are an issue, Clearfield® tolerant varieties offer a solution.

“ OSR in the rotation brings a different rooting structure, with the large tap root produced helping to break 'pans' and improve soil structure, as well as nutrient availability when sown following wheat crops. ”

- **OSR is one of the only monoculture arable crops** in which 'companion cropping' is being carried out on a relatively wide scale. With some growers looking towards buckwheat or berseem clovers to establish alongside OSR, under new SFI payments, this can be worth £55 a hectare.
- **OSR in the rotation brings a different rooting structure**, with the large tap root produced helping to break 'pans' and improve soil structure, as well as nutrient availability when sown following wheat crops. A 2017 German study (Weiser et al., 2017) showed that wheats following OSR yielded on average 5% higher than those following a cereal, such as barley. These are costs that are often overlooked when analysing the value of OSR on farm.
- **Whilst OSR can be relatively input heavy**, if sown before the end of the year, there has been a lot of research carried out into how best to reduce inputs in the spring; AHDB project PR447 investigated the effectiveness of managing and tailoring OSR nitrogen inputs based on the canopy size. Research forms the backbone of technologies, such as the Yara N sensors, and has proven effective in reducing spring nitrogen costs for growers whilst maximising yields.



For more information on utilising nitrogen in OSR, please scan:
lgseeds.co.uk/oilseeds-canopy-management/





EXPANDING THE YELLOW PEA MARKET



RON GRANGER
Arable Technical
Manager

Yellow peas have historically been only a small proportion of the UK pulses market but are grown much more widely in Canada and France.

Originally, only grown as a niche product for animal feed, they now command a premium for bird food and human consumption markets.

The area of yellow peas has been increasing steadily in the UK over the past decade.

Justin Barrett, from Askew and Barret (Pulses) Ltd, explains "we are finding that yellow peas have a higher yield than large blue and marrowfat types. They are also flexible, as they are used in a number of processes including for fractionation, pea

flour and split peas used for soups, stews and casseroles."

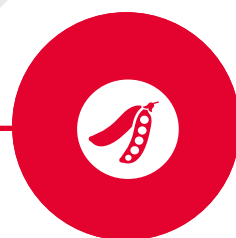
Limagrain's first yellow pea in the UK, **LG Ajax**, was first listed in 2022 and was followed by **LG Corvet**. Both of these varieties have a step up in disease resistance over other types, especially against powdery and downy mildew.

"One of the major benefits of yellow peas for growers, is there is no risk of bleaching during growing and harvesting and they

are usually the first of the dry peas to be combined. I expect the market to continue to increase for yellow peas," says Justin.



LG AJAX



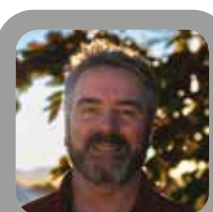
DELIVERING SUCCESS FOR GROWERS

The Limagrain UK portfolio of Betaseed varieties, continues to offer a diverse range of varieties for consideration, on the new 2024 Recommended List.

The portfolio offers an array of varieties suitable for the key demands of specific requirements or situations – yield/ sugar percentage/ disease resistance/ bolting tolerance, and now ALS herbicide resistance.

Betaseed varieties are proven both in trials and more importantly through consistent performance over very erratic and challenging seasons of drought and virus.

Based on this success, the varieties are now a well-recognised brand in the UK sugar beet sector, delivering growers security of performance through excellent genetics.



RON GRANGER
Arable Technical
Manager

UltiPro

Betaseed's unique seed treatment, **UltiPro**, is designed to help sugar beet growers maximise their yields and profitability, by improving the health and performance of their crops.



By protecting the seed and promoting early plant development, UltiPro can help growers establish a strong, healthy stand of sugar

beets, that can withstand environmental stresses and produce a high-quality crop. UltiPro has been independently tested for 3 years in comparison to the UK market standard.



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INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT



JOHN SPENCE
Forage Crops
Product Manager

The launch of the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) in 2022 and the subsequent options added in 2023, allows farmers to adopt and maintain sustainable farming practices that will help improve our environment.

You can apply for a 3-year SFI agreement to undertake environmental land management actions that will help you to manage your land in a sustainable way. There are six SFI actions to choose from, and some work in conjunction with the Countryside Stewardship.

As SFI is so comprehensive and detailed - in this edition, we will focus on 'Integrated Pest Management' (IPM).

IPM is focused on:

- Increasing knowledge and identifying opportunities for integrated pest management
- Creating habitats for natural crop pest predators
- Using companion cropping to suppress weeds, reduce diseases and provide protection from crop pests
- Minimising use of insecticides

“ If you decide to apply for one of these actions, it should help you with managing crop pests, diseases and weed control, and minimise the use of pesticides **”**



Actions & Payments for IPM

IPM1	Assess integrated pest management and produce a plan	£989 per year
IPM2	Sow flower-rich grass margins, blocks, or in-field strips	£673 per hectare
IPM3	Use a companion crop on arable land	£55 per hectare
IPM4	No use of insecticide on arable crops and permanent crops	No payment

To maximise your sustainable farming options, LG have designed seed mixtures that are eligible for IPM actions:

IPM2

Flower Rich Margin Seed Mixture, containing 80% grasses and 20% native UK wildflowers. Ideal for blocks or in-field strips; the mixture, once established, will provide habitat and food for predators and pollinators.

IPM3

Our **Grass & Clover Mixture** can be under sown with cereals and our **Maize Grass Mixture** can be used to under sow a maize crop, providing an understory habitat.

If you decide to apply for one of these actions, it should help you with managing crop pests, diseases and weed control, and minimise the use of pesticides - leading to increased biodiversity and improvements to water quality, soil and air quality.

We suggest, before you decide which SFI action suits your business, that you check out the application process, rules, and payments at:
www.gov.uk/government/collections/sustainable-farming-incentive-guidance



Or Scan
the QR Code





LIMAGRAIN UPGRADES MALTING BARLEY LABORATORY AT UK HEADQUARTERS



SOPHIE BUON
Barley Breeder

Our malting barley laboratory at Rothwell in Lincolnshire has been upgraded to increase testing capability for the early screening of new varieties, from 1000 to 4000 samples a year, for both the UK and European markets.

"This will allow us to use the data generated more efficiently to enable more accurate genomic selection, to better predict the malting potential and quality of the next generation of malting barleys," says Sophie Buon, barley breeder.

"This new approach will test varieties under different micro-malting regimes, that require less water and less steeping - and in response to end user requirements, do this in the most carbon neutral way possible."

“ We hope that the new facility will encourage end-users to visit and see for themselves, the extensive work that we are doing to breed new and exciting malting barley varieties, that meet all of today and tomorrow's market requirements. ”



Introducing Kurtis Scarboro – Arable Development Officer

Kurtis started his career in the agricultural industry over 10 years ago, working on a mixed livestock and arable farm, before moving into a role within crop trials at NIAB.

In 2022, Kurtis completed a BASIS certificate in crop protection, giving him an additional recognised industry qualification.

Kurtis says, "I am excited to have joined Limagrains UK, and look forward to the variety and the challenges that the job will entail. My new role will help me further my knowledge within the industry, especially working with such an experienced technical team."

Since starting in September 2023, Kurtis has spent a lot of time working with individual crop teams and getting to grips with the Limagrains variety portfolio (there is still a long way to go!).

Kurtis has been helping to plan and organise the drilling of winter wheat demo sites across the UK, at Rothwell, Woolpit, Newbury and Perth. In addition, alongside Ron Granger, he has also

implemented a range of wheat and barley agronomy interaction trials at Rothwell. The wheat variety demo compares 36 different varieties, including some new promising Limagrains lines, with treated and untreated replicates. Despite the weather, the Rothwell Demo site was drilled over the first 2 weeks of October, using a Wintersteiger trials disc drill, with help and thanks to the Rothwell breeding teams.

Summing up his time at Limagrains so far, Kurtis comments, "I look forward to collaborating with people both internally and externally within the industry, and seeing many of you at the LG open days this summer."

BASIS and NRoSO Points

Thank you to all our readers who have given feedback on previous editions - we really appreciate it and read them all. Your opinions really do matter to us.

By reading this issue of LG GatePost, you can claim BASIS and/or NRoSO points. To do so, go to bit.ly/47yESr9

You can also leave your feedback on this form.



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