GatePost
FROM THE BREEDER | Limagrain Field Seeds

Wise Variety Choice Builds Yield Security

RON GRANGER
Arable Technical Manager

From unpredictable weather, to evolving disease threats, there are numerous risks to crop profitability; some of which can be managed, or at least mitigated, with careful variety selection, says our arable technical manager, Ron Granger.

Yield remains a top priority when choosing what to grow, but the key is selecting proven varieties that deliver "yield security" across multiple, often very different seasons, by combining yield potential with agronomics and disease resistance, suited to specific situations.

Yield security is something Limagrain is providing, with a range of exciting hard wheat varieties, including **LG Typhoon, LG Beowulf, LG Rebellion,** and two new Candidates for 2025, **LG Challenger** and **LG Defiance.**

Proven performer

LG Typhoon has been on the RL for three years, and has proven popular with many agronomists and farmers, especially those drilling early and with wider-row regen-type systems. It has an excellent disease resistance profile, especially for yellow rust (9) and Septoria tritici (7.2). This, combined with orange wheat blossom midge (OWBM) resistance, good specific weight and agronomic characteristics of a slow, prostrate, growth habit, and high tillering ability, all suit such situations.

These characteristics make **LG Typhoon** a great all-round package, but it should not just be considered as an early drilling variety. It has proven to be a great all-rounder, showing good results when drilled later, affording extra flexibility should the weather disrupt plans.

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LG Beowulf takes genetic gains further, building on its strong Costello x Gleam parentage. It offers robust disease resistance, rated 9 for yellow rust, and 6.6 for Septoria tritici, stiff straw, strong tillering, OWBM resistance and excellent grain quality, particularly specific weight.

LG Beowulf has all the key agronomic attributes for securing yield potential, with proven performance across different situations, soil types, drilling dates, and regions. It is a variety that offers great all-round flexibility, suiting most on-farm situations, and is certainly one for consideration this Autumn. It also has faster Spring growth than **LG Typhoon,** which could make it a better option for those concerned about black-grass and wanting to maximise crop competition.

Another variety with rapid Spring growth is **LG Rebellion.** Although not on the RL, it has performed consistently well over the past three years in official trials and Limagrain remains fully committed to it for the coming Autumn, confident that it offers a differential package to many other hard feed wheats.

LG Rebellion capitalises on its KWS Extase parentage, offering more rapid Spring growth, high untreated yield potential, and good grain characteristics, with the bonus of Pch1 eyespot resistance.

Early maturity is a particularly valuable asset for spreading harvest date and the potential for land preparation or an early entry into oilseed rape.

LG Rebellion is more suited to the main and late drilling window, performing well on all soil types, but probably warrants special consideration for more testing, lighter and medium-bodied soils where varieties with faster growth, earlier maturity, and good specific weight are considered beneficial. It also suits growers wanting to sow a hard wheat after late-lifted root crops, veg, and maize.

Yellow rust is something to watch out for on-farm, but recent seasons show all varieties - even those with the highest resistance ratings - should be monitored, given the pathogens constantly evolving nature.

	GRAIN YIELD (%Treated Control)					ROTATIONAL POSITION		SOIL TYPE		GRAIN QUALITY
	FUNGICIDE TREATED				Untreated Grain Yield (% Treated Control)	1st Cereal	2nd and more	Light Soils	Heavy Soils	Specific Weight (kg/hl)
	United Kingdom	East Region	West Region	North Region						
LG BEOWULF	105	106	104	107	85	106	105	103	106	78.5
LG REBELLION	106	106	107	(103)	93	106	105	(104)	106	78.6
LG TYPHOON	101	101	101	103	87	101	102	101	101	77.4
GLEAM (C)	103	103	103	104	78	103	103	103	103	77.1

() = limited data. AHDB RL 2025/26 Data Sets *LG Rebellion not added to the AHDB RL 2025/26

Raising the Bar

The two exciting new Candidate varieties, **LG Challenger** and **LG Defiance,** promise to raise the yield potential bar further, backed up by high untreated yields. They mark the latest results of ongoing Limagrain breeding development, bringing new hard wheats to the UK market.

LG Defiance builds on its Gleam x KWS Extase parentage, offering the second-highest treated yield of all Candidate varieties (111); slightly ahead of three-way cross, **LG Challenger** (108). **LG Defiance** is more of a KWS Extase-plant type, but with a slower Spring growth, suiting the mainstream to late drilling window.

LG Challenger, in contrast, sits tighter to the ground and tillers better, which is likely to make it a more suited option for earlier drilling and Northern regions, based on limited data.

Both have OWBM resistance and good grain quality, although **LG Challenger** has a slight edge on specific weight and Hagberg.

With hard feed wheats accounting for around half the UK wheat market and likely to feature heavily again this Autumn, selecting a variety that fits your situation and offers yield security is key to maximising returns, whatever next season throws at us!

THE BENEFITS OF WINTER BARLEY IN A UK CROP ROTATION

HEATHER OLDFIELD
Cereals & Pulses Product Manager UK & IRE

The inclusion of winter barley can significantly enhance productivity, as well as economic and environmental sustainability on farm. Unfortunately, in recent years, there has been a decline in the winter barley area planted, similar to oilseed rape, likely due to depressed commodity prices.

The versatility of winter barley, particularly in combination with oilseed rape, should not be overlooked. This is especially relevant with the launch of Limagrain's Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle resilience oilseed varieties this Autumn.

Improved Soil Health

Winter barley has a positive impact on soil health. It acts as a cover crop, protecting the soil from erosion and nutrient leaching during the winter months. Its root system improves soil structure, increases organic matter, and enhances water infiltration, all of which contribute to long-term soil fertility.

Weed Suppression

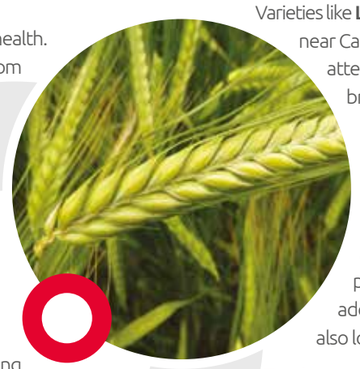
Winter barley is effective at suppressing weeds. Its rapid establishment and dense canopy outcompete many weed species, reducing the weed seed bank and minimising herbicide use. This lowers production costs and promotes sustainable farming by reducing inputs.

Flexibility, Pest & Disease Management

Incorporating winter barley into the rotation can break the cycle of pests and diseases. For example, it reduces the incidence of take-all and eyespot. Staffordshire farmer Rob Atkin mentions that "being able to drill varieties with high yield potential, like **LG Caravelle,** means we can drill early. Early September drilling helps take the pressure off, and we've grazed forward winter barley crops with sheep for extra feed into winter."

Limagrain's Cereals & Pulses Product Manager emphasises that winter barley requires earlier foliar applications than winter wheat. This consolidation of workload allows for more effective attention to crop needs.

Newly Recommended variety **LG Carpenter** and RL Candidate **LG Catapult** are both BYDV tolerant. BYDV in severe cases can lead to significant crop losses, up to 50% in severe cases, reduced tillering, yellowing and stunted growth, and delayed maturity. **LG Catapult** is a competitive two-row feed variety, with short straw, good standing, a robust disease package, and high yield potential; a clear step forward in winter barley breeding.



Yield Stability and Early Harvest

Winter barley is less affected by adverse weather compared to spring-sown crops, ensuring reliable yields even in challenging growing seasons. Additionally, it matures earlier, allowing for an earlier harvest, which frees up time and resources on farm. Helping to spread workloads and save costs.

Varieties like **LG Capitol,** which performed well on Luke Palmer's farm, near Cambridge, yielded 9.5t/ha in 2024. The years of breeding, attention to detail, and collaboration between farmers and breeders, are showcasing excellent results.

Economic Benefits

Due to adverse weather in Autumn 2023, many farmers planted spring barley in 2024, leading to depressed prices. Over the last decade, winter barley has been a profitable addition for farmers. Its early harvest provides early cash flow, and the straw offers an additional income stream. The reduced need for inputs also lowers production costs.

Environmental Benefits

Winter barley plays an essential role in reducing soil erosion, improving soil health, and lowering input needs, making it a key part of a sustainable farming system.

> "Winter barley is less affected by adverse weather compared to spring-sown crops, ensuring reliable yields even in challenging growing seasons."

Conclusion

Winter barley offers numerous benefits, including improved soil health, weed suppression, pest and disease management, yield stability, and economic and environmental advantages. For these reasons, it should remain a valuable addition to any crop rotation.

OILSEED - INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT EXPLAINED

RYAN KEMP
Senior Trials Officer

An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy for oilseed rape combines multiple practices to combat pests, disease and weeds. UK growers are aware of oilseeds susceptibility to a variety of pests. Notably, cabbage stem flea beetle, but crops can also fall prey to aphids and slugs to name but a few, as well as a range of diseases like verticillium, sclerotinia and clubroot.

Ever tightening legislation on chemical controls and increasing resilience to Pyrethroids, means a comprehensive IPM strategy is essential for managing these threats, while reducing reliance on chemical pesticides.

1. Cultural Practices

Cultural control methods are the first line of defence. Lengthening the crop rotation is one of the most effective strategies, as it disrupts pest life cycles and reduces the build-up of soil-borne diseases. Growing oilseed rape in a longer rotation with non-host crops, such as cereals or legumes, helps to break pest and disease cycles - particularly for pests like cabbage root fly or cabbage stem flea beetle.

Rolling an oilseed crop shortly after drilling helps to create good seed to soil contact, ensuring good efficacy of any pre-emergent herbicide by breaking down any remaining clods of soil, as well as reducing the risk of slug damage.

Additionally, sowing and harvesting at optimal times can avoid the peak periods of pest pressure. For instance, early sowing can give the plant enough biomass to survive a CSFB attack, whereas, delaying sowing can help reduce the early-season damage caused by CSFB. Choosing pest-resistant varieties, such as those resistant to TuYV or with high disease rating, further bolster the crop's resilience.

Appling early fertiliser to give the crop enough nutrition to get it up, away and through winter, is also critical to a successful crop.

> "Choosing pest-resistant varieties, such as those resistant to TuYV or with high disease rating, further bolster the crop's resilience."

2. Monitoring and Early Detection

Regular monitoring of the crop is essential for early detection and intervention. Growers should visually inspect damage/disease or use sticky traps to monitor pest populations. Aphid and CSFB populations can be monitored to track thresholds for application. Additionally, using pheromone traps for species such as diamondback moth or cabbage root fly, can help track population dynamics. Incorporating decision support systems enables farmers to predict pest pressure, ensuring that the most effective control measures are used at the right time. Early detection ensures that these are targeted and effective methods.

3. Biological Control

Biological control leverages natural predators and parasitoids, to reduce pest populations; natural enemies like parasitic wasps can help manage aphid populations. Farmers can encourage beneficial organisms by maintaining habitats, such as wildflower strips or hedgerows, which support a diverse range of species.

4. Chemical Control

Chemical control can be used where necessary, focusing on selective and targeted applications. Farmers should monitor pest populations and apply pesticides only when thresholds are met, ensuring the chemicals maximum efficiency. Selective use of insecticides and herbicides can target specific pest species while minimising harm to beneficial insects and crops. To prevent pesticide resistance, it's essential to rotate chemistry where options are available, avoiding repeated use of the same chemicals. Timing is critical - applying pesticides when pests are most vulnerable or actively targetable, i.e. not within the stems or hidden under foliage, is key to improving efficacy and reducing overall number of applications.

Regular monitoring of the crop is essential for early detection and intervention.

> "LG have identified flea beetle resilience within oilseed rape, which works within a wider IPM strategy, to curtail this devastating pest."

5. Resistant Varieties and Genetic Innovations

Genetically resistant and resilient varieties of oilseed rape are a valuable tool within IPM strategy. These varieties are bred to combat specific pests and diseases, reducing the need for chemical interventions. Varieties resistant to clubroot for instance, are widely used in areas where clubroot is a known problem. Genetic innovation can be massively impactful in terms of general disease resistance, whilst improved agronomic characteristics contribute to the overall sustainability of the crop. Most recently, LG have identified flea beetle resilience within oilseed rape, which works within a wider IPM strategy, to curtail this devastating pest. If opting to drill late suits your IPM strategy, a genetically vigorous variety is required for faster speed of development. Early drilling on the other hand, requires a variety that is slightly slower out of the blocks.

6. Weed Management

Weed management is another key component of oilseed rape IPM. Weeds can pose a significant challenge, so a combination of cultural, mechanical, and chemical control methods are employed. Crop rotation with different modes of action, help to manage weed control, while techniques like the use of cover crops or stale seedbeds, can suppress weed growth. Mechanical control, such as using weed harrows or inter-row cultivation, also aids in weed management - especially during the early stages of crop growth, and can also reduce the reliance on chemical methods.

WIN A PAIR OF LE CHAMEAU WELLIES

Scan to order your copy of the LG Arable Guide and be in with a chance to WIN a pair of Le Chameau wellies

SCAN ME

COVERING GROUND: THE POTENTIAL OF COVER AND COMPANION CROPS

JOHN SPENCE
Forage Crops
Product Manager

As growers continue to face increasing agronomic and environmental pressures, the value of cover and companion cropping is clearer than ever. These practices not only support sustainable farming systems but also deliver real performance benefits across the rotation - improving soil health, nutrient efficiency, and pest management.

Establishing a cover crop over the winter months helps minimise nutrient leaching and erosion, whilst also benefitting soil structure and biology.

Companion cropping offers a strategic way to enhance crop resilience and field performance. They can act as a trap crop for pests, help suppress weeds, protect soils and increase nutrient efficiency, as well as provide improved habitat for wildlife.

There are various options for SFI-eligible crops for integrated pest management CIPM3 - companion crops on arable and horticultural land, worth £55/ha for those already accepted into the scheme, such as;

- Clover understories
- Cereal with Crimson/Berseem clover
- Oilseed with Berseem clover/Fenugreek
- Trap crops to divert pest activity
- Undersown maize
- Cereals undersown with grass

Companion cropping with Oilseeds

Companion plants are sown alongside a primary crop to improve its agronomic behaviour. Some of the benefits of growing a legume-based companion crop with oilseed rape are:

- Improve the oilseed rape yield
- To ensure an improved Nitrogen supply in late winter by combining it with selected N fixing legumes (typically, 30-40 units of N/ha after destruction)
- Help reduce weed competition
- To help improve soil aeration in the top 20cm of the soil
- Insect attack rate is consistently lower in the presence of a companion crop, especially in Autumn, where egg-laying activity is disrupted
- Sensitivity to diseases specific to oilseed rape, such as sclerotinia and club root, does not increase when companion crops are used

As with any crops, fields containing high weed pressure are not suitable for companion cropping, as the combination of weeds and companion crop will inhibit the oilseed plants.

Vetch and berseem clovers are easy to drill and will create rapid soil coverage and good Autumn plant development, maximising biomass potential. They can produce excellent Nitrogen replenishment for the oilseed rape plants after crop destruction. Fenugreek may offer some repellence against insect pests.

When should I sow/terminate?

The best companion crops are sown in August; the earlier the better as to increase frost sensitivity of the companion crop and to get the crop to the most advanced stage.

Some companion crops can be drilled 2 weeks earlier, allowing drilling of the oilseed rape seed into a standing companion crop.

In a typical winter, the companion crop should be killed by winter frosts.

SFI MIXTURE OPTIONS

MULTISPECIES COVER CROP

- Fast-growing short term cover crop mixture, for sowing in Spring or Summer
- Produces high levels of organic matter
- Includes a range of species with differing rooting depths to benefit soil structure
- Good canopy to protect the soil surface and minimise soil run-off
- Includes; White Mustard, Buckwheat, Common Vetch, Crimson Clover

Sow at 20kg/ha, April-Aug
Suitable for SOH2, SOH3

LIFT N FIX

- 80% Humbolt Forage Rye - fast-growing, lifts and holds Nitrogen preventing leaching, forms dense cover
- 20% Vetch - fixes Nitrogen ready for the subsequent crop
- Helps penetrate compacted soils and provides excellent weed smothering properties
- Perfect for sowing after cereals

Sow at 70-80kg/ha, Sept-Oct
Suitable for CSAM3, SOH4

Cover and companion crops are more than just tick-box options - they're tools for building long-term soil resilience, protecting yields, and enhancing on-farm sustainability.

GROWING CROPS FOR SEED PRODUCTION

Independent crop consultant Pat Thornton, farms 150ha's of arable land at Low Melwood Farm, Owston Ferry, North Lincolnshire, and has grown cereal and pulse seed crops for Limagrain for the last six years.

We asked him about the pros and cons of growing crops for seed.

Q What are the main benefits of growing crops for seed?

Growing crops for seed adds value to what I already grow across the rotation. It gives me a premium on top of a standard feed crop.

One of the most exciting aspects is seeing new genetics in action before they become widely available. It's great to be part of that development process and see how these new crops perform in real farm conditions. I have direct access to the breeder, which is invaluable for understanding the crop and getting expert advice.

Seed crops are also collected relatively quickly at harvest, helping to move crops on faster; and this helps with cash flow.

Q Are there any challenges associated with growing crops for seed?

Yes, growing seed crops requires stricter quality control and attention to detail. There are specific requirements for purity and disease management, which means I must follow precise guidelines to meet standards.

We have to be extra vigilant about weeds like wild oats, which can be an issue, and blackgrass, which is a particular challenge on my heavier soils. To manage this, I tend to grow seed crops on my cleaner fields.

Q Is storage capability an issue?

Storage is an important consideration because seed crops need to be kept separately to maintain purity. This means having dedicated storage space and ensuring it is well-managed to meet seed quality standards.

LOW MELWOOD FARM

150ha's heavy soils through to high clay soils

Oilseed rape has been dropped from the rotation which now is wheat, wheat and spring barley.

Pat Thornton

"The LG Beowulf was put in as a first wheat after fallow and looks good!"

This year Pat is growing LG Beowulf and Tundra winter beans for seed.

Pat has grown Tundra for a few years now and is looking forward to seeing the new genetics coming out of the LG pulses breeding programme.

Find out how becoming an LG seed contract grower can benefit you.

SCAN ME

Register your interest here

Or contact Victoria Smith directly:
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SUMMER DEMO DAYS

LG will be hosting four Summer Demo Days at sites across the UK. These will consist of trial plots drilled in an on-farm situation.

Each event will be hosted by our own LG experts, as well as industry experts from within the agricultural sector, providing technical information on an array of topics such as fertiliser & micronutrients, agrochemicals, SFI's and more.

We will also once again be running the Moisture Meter Clinic, which has been a farmer favourite in past years. So, bring your samples along for testing!

Rothwell and Woolpit will be showcasing all varieties in the Limagrain winter barley portfolio, including the 2 high yielding 2-row feed varieties; **LG Caravelle** and **LG Capitol**; as well as RL Candidate, **LG Catapult.**

LG's Summer Demos will have a wide assortment of winter wheat varieties to show, including Limagrain's high yielding feed variety, **LG Beowulf.** Also on show will be early driller **LG Typhoon,** and **LG Rebellion** - with its consistently high untreated yield.

BASIS & NRoSO points are available for attending.

SCAN TO REGISTER

WOOLPIT 16th June
Location: ///himself.oxidation.snores

NEWBURY 17th June
Location: ///defenders.breezy.rounds

ROTHWELL 8th July
Location: ///sunset.sagging.betraying

PERTH 17th July
Location: ///suffix.enhances.ounce

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