



Repeat performance

A completely different season to 2012, but once again Hybrid Wheat has performed well across the board, whether on farm, in local trials or under formal research protocols.

Trial data from sites including Saaten Union's research station at Cowlinge, near Newmarket is still being digested but below we look at some of the initial headline results and report the latest thinking from Europe.

Hybrid Wheat tops CAT trials

For the second year running Hybrid Wheat varieties have come out on top in Eastern region winter wheat trials.

Last year Hystar was the "star" performer in Cambridge Arable Technologies' trials near Newmarket. This variety has performed well again this year - with a similar yield level to top conventional high yielding Santiago - but has been beaten by its newer stable mates, Hyteck and Hybery; note also the specific weights.



Hybrid Wheat open days in July were well supported.

Consistent farm yields

In a year when yields and quality have been "all over the place", Hybrid Wheat has continued to give consistently good performance under a wide range of growing conditions.

Control varieties	Variety	Yield t/ha @15%MC	Yield as % control	Spec. Weight Kg/Hl
	Hyteck	11.78	113	82.2
	Hybery	11.46	109	84.4
*	KWS Santiago	11.32	108	78.1
	Hystar	11.21	107	84.8
*	Invicta	10.81	103	78.6
*	JB Diego	10.69	102	83.1
	Panorama	10.32	99	82.8
	Claire	10.26	98	79.3
	Grafton 150% seed rate	10.04	96	82.1
	Grafton	9.89	95	80.1
*	Solstice	9.77	93	83.3
*	Gallant	9.74	93	80.3
	Control varieties	10.47	100	80.7
	5 % LSD:		3	1.6
	CV:		2	0.9

Location	Soil type	Rotational position	Yield (T/Ha)
North Essex	Chalky boulder clay	Continuous	9.27
SE Essex	All types	WW1	10.45
Ipswich	Sand	WW1	8.4
Bury St Edmunds	Med/Loam	WW2	8.8
North Essex	Very mixed	Continuous	8.93
Anglesey	Sand	Unknown	10.13
Kings Lynn	Silver sand	After Rye	8.03
Cambs	Light Fen	WW1	10.1
Huntingdon	Very mixed	WW3	7.66
Bungay	Very mixed	After S Beet	9.9
Strip trial result	Loam/brash	After grass	Hystar 10.1 Hybery 10.38 Hyteck 10.75

Maximise Hybrid potential

Dr Volker Lein heads up Saaten Union's Hybrid Wheat breeding research on the Continent and is a regular visitor to the UK. Irrespective of location, good establishment is every bit as important for Hybrid Wheat as for conventional types, he points out:

"For Hybrids the seed bed is particularly important as the plant needs to be able to express its rooting advantage. This does not necessarily mean ploughing as some forms of minimum tillage achieve a good localised seedbed."

With Hybery and Hystar seed rates will be around 70% of the conventional rate, up to 240 seeds/m² but due to its lower tillering potential Hyteck should not be drilled at less than 180 seeds/m² he recommends.

Looking further ahead he suggests that due to the Hybrid's ability to resist lodging - a benefit of the strong root formation and inherited stem wall structure - growers may be able to maximise yield potential by avoiding use of growth regulators at late growth stages.

