NELSON is a new introduction to the Organic Winter Wheat seed market. Spotted in German trials in 2011 we were impressed by the cleanliness of the variety and the width and colour of the flag leaf.

Bred by SZ Schweiger GbR one of the leading German Plant Breeders we duly found out that NELSON produced grain with outstanding bread-making quality and was classed as “E” quality, the highest quality rating attainable. The parentage was Solitar x Cubus x Turkis.

We knew that both Cubus and Turkis were very good varieties in Germany but noticing Solitar immediately drew our attention to the organic possibilities.

We had trialled Solitar several years ago where it was a variety that due to its outstanding disease resistance profile produced a negative response to inputs in the sense the increased yield attained was negligible at best and would not cover the cost of the inputs.

We grew our first UK organic seed production crop NELSON in 2012 in what turned out to be one of the worst years for disease pressure, low yields and poor quality in memory. We are pleased to say that NELSON showed the Solitar disease resistance characters throughout and in view of the terrible harvest results from still managed to produce ....

Yield: 2.100 tonnes per acre... Hagberg Falling Number: 362...
Spec Weight: 76.0 kg / hl...
Germination 96% with a Vigour Score of 1.3 (Very High )

Bread-making tests were undertaken by John Lister of SHIPTON MILLS and they found the NELSON produced very good loaves.

They were sufficiently impressed to conduct a full commercial test on the variety and subsequently arranged for us to supply all our seed production to Barrington Park Estates near Banbury and The Duchy Home Farm near Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

In turn SHIPTON MILLS have contracted the whole harvest produce into their mill. This will hopefully produce in the region 250 – 300 tonnes of commercial NELSON grain for their evaluation.

We have a limited quantity of Organic C2 NELSON available for Autumn 2013. If you are interested in trying this new exciting variety please contact Gemma Clarke

We are confident NELSON will offer the organic grower...

• A combination of high yield and quality
• Excellent disease resistance particularly to mildew and septoria nodorum
• Superb standing power and stiff straw
• Early emergence
• Extremely winter hardy
• Broad flag lead with excellent green retention
For Consistency Choose SEQUENZ

SEQUENZ from BayWa in Germany is an extremely reliable and adaptable winter triticale.

SEQUENZ has developed over the past 5 years to become one of the organic growers favourite tried and tested triticale varieties. Its extremely deep rooting habit gives it the ability to produce consistently high yields over a wide range of soil types and climatic conditions as well as producing grain with high specific weight and proteins. Very good standing ability and early maturity.

**SEQUENZ - A very consistent variety**

**Crusoe Ticks All the Boxes**

NEW variety CRUSOE is a Group 1 bread-making quality variety that also produces untreated yields similar to those of several feed wheats varieties including Invicta, JB Diego, Relay.

Crusoe is the only variety other than Cougar that has a rating of 7 for resistance to septoria triticic. It has superb resistance to mildew and yellow rust both rated 9. It has short straw so due consideration must be taken when considering field choices where known weed competition could be a problem.

An interesting variety that is certainly worth a look in the right situations.

**The HIGHEST Untreated Yields in any Barley available......**

The best choice for any organic grower wishing to grow winter barley for feed.

It has good disease resistance especially to mildew and rhynchosporium. Matros produces the highest untreated 2 row barley on the 2013/14 HGCA Recommended List. Matros is +9% higher yielding than both Saffron and Suzuka +7% above Florentine and +5% above KWS Cassia.

It has good standing power and also the LONGEST straw. Where straw height is a benefit in keeping the crop ahead and above weed competition in the field the straw itself adds serious value to the crop.

Matros produces large bold grain with high specific weight and low screenings

**COUGAR: The HIGHEST Untreated Yields available in any wheat**

COUGAR is the NEW Group 4 soft feed winter wheat variety with the the HIGHEST untreated yield of any variety on the 2013 Recommended List. With a step- forward in yield over the UK No.1 variety JB Diego, Cougar has all the attributes to make it a farmer- friendly barnfiller.

Cougar’s performance in untreated trials gives an indication of how it can perform when under pressure from high levels of disease. At sites with high disease pressure in 2012, Cougar performed well in both treated and untreated trials, losing on average only 6.7% of its treated yield in untreated trials (compared to Santiago losing 22% and JB Diego losing 12.5%).

**TUXEDO Winter Wheat**

TUXEDO is an extremely safe and reliable variety with excellent resistance to the two key diseases yellow rust and Septoria tritici. Tuxedo shows no other major disease weaknesses.

Tuxedo has inherited its good disease resistance from 3 parents; Goodwill is a relative of Claire and as such has a good resistance to yellow rust and Septoria Tritici. Yellow rust resistance also come from the Gladiator parentage and the Septoria tritici resistance comes from both Goodwill and Robigus.

From the same breeding stable as Claire and Alchemy it has very good standing ability.

**INVICTA in Short Supply**

Due to the difficult Autumn sowing, we have very little INVICTA available this year and suggest booking early if this is your preferred variety.

INVICTA is a soft endospermed winter wheat with a very high yield potential.

It has excellent agronomic characters with sound all-round disease resistance as well as good standing ability.

From the same breeding stable as Claire and Alchemy we consider INVICTA to be TODAY`s improved Claire / Alchemy type of wheat.

1% higher Untreated yields than Alchemy and 7% above Claire.

**RELAY: Overcoming Every Hurdle**

RELAY is a high yielding hard- milling feed wheat with excellent grain quality, including a high HFN – useful in catchy harvests.

It has a very high tillering capacity, which makes it suitable for tough seed bed conditions and also contributes to its high 2nd wheat yields. Good overall disease resistance, especially to yellow rust where it scores a 9, Septoria and Fusarium.

A relatively quick developing variety. One of the earlier maturing feed wheats. Definitely a variety for consideration. A safe reliable option.

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Psst......Organic Claire still available
First added to the HGCA Recommended List in 1999. Its prostrate habit of emergence and reliable performance of yield and disease resistance has made it a favourite of organic growers for many years. Suitable as a first, second or continuous wheat.
**AGOSTINO Winter Triticale**

Triticale is a much underutilised cereal crop, whose potential has not been realised in the UK. Elsewhere, particularly Poland, Germany and Sweden, it finds its place on the farm and market. Triticale produces grain with high lysine values, and so is ideal for on-farm feeding. As a versatile low input crop other uses of triticale include whole crop production, game cover and thatching.

In recent seasons, with increasing disease pressure, yellow rust has occasionally been found in most varieties currently on the HGCA Descriptive List. Agostino is a high yielding variety coming only second to Tribeca in untreated HGCA trials. Agostino is an early maturing variety with short straw and excellent lodging resistance. Agostino has the best specific weight of any HGCA recommended variety along with high protein content.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGOSTINO</th>
<th>GRENADINO</th>
<th>BENETTO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T yield (% ctrl, 8.1 t/ha)</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodging %</td>
<td>[0]</td>
<td>[0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straw length (cm)</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ripening (days +/- Benetto)</td>
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<td>[2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific weight (kg/hl)</td>
<td>72.9</td>
<td>70.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein content %</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MASCANI Winter Oats**

There is no winter oat breeding conducted in the UK and very little now being done by European breeders. We therefore see little change to the varieties being offered to the farmer over the next couple of years. With that in mind, Mascani is a trusted variety, with stiff straw, and excellent grain quality. It is early to mature and has excellent disease resistance, particularly to the common crown rust races. A rare race of crown rust does exist that can infect Mascani, although levels have been low. Just like Dalguise it has the excellent grain quality of Mascani should continue to ensure its popularity with the millers. Its grain quality is excellent, with low screenings, the highest kernel content and weight and is now more popular with growers than Gerald. Organic and conventional winter oat seed is short this year and we advise early booking to ensure you receive Autumn oat seed, as its uniquely untreated conventional oats will be available as an alternative should organic seed run out.

**WIZARD Winter Beans: Still the Market Leader**

Beans offer a reliable source of home grown protein and are an excellent break crop preceding winter wheat which is known to benefit favourably to the higher soil nitrogen status left by the bean crop.

The advantages for UK growers is that WIZARD offers adaptability to a wide range of soil types and can be sown anytime between October and December. Wizard is still the most widely grown winter bean variety despite being first listed in 2003. Wizard took 85% of the market in 2011 and this is expected to have grown to 95% for last Autumn. This is due to the varieties consistency, limited breeding and competition from new varieties. With this in mind, there seems little reason to move away from Wizard until the breeders can find a variety to supercede it.

Seed supply is extremely scarce both organically and conventionally and we advise booking early.

**Organic Grain Market Update**

‘Phewwww! I hear you all say. I also would like to breath a large sigh of relief that this grain trading season is drawing to a close.

At the time of writing, trading of UK crops is all but done. There may still be the odd heap lying around, but about on the whole the season finished extremely early this year. That’s no surprise when harvest 2012 brought both pitiful yields and poor quality.

Organic Feed Wheat values started out at £250 ex 2013 and reached a high of circa £305 ex farm. At the time of writing, values have fallen back to circa £295/£300 ex farm due to a good supply of imports.

Deductions became a regular occurrence and did not hesitate with the £295/£300 ex farm this year due to the organic dairy fraternity and its performance from last years difficult growing season. However barley sales saw the largest increase of 26% which suggests end users want it as difficult this season to source their barley requirements.

Milling oats were in good supply this year, hence why the price didn’t follow the upward trend of wheat. Sales are up again this year by 6% so we expect oat prices to remain fairly static. We are currently working with UK Trade and Investment and our European contacts in the hope we can achieve export opportunities in order to ensure firm oat prices remain for milking quality.

Bean sales are also up 12%. The majority of the increase seen from the spring varieties. Wheat sales were down 6% with the reduction seen mainly in the milling varieties. We’re interested to see how your growing season is going. We will then include these updates in our monthly e-letter.

**Varieties to Keep an Eye out for...**

At Cope Seeds we are constantly looking at new lines of cereals coming through from both UK based Plant Breeders as well as Europe that will bring benefits to the UK organic grower. Varieties we have identified that we are looking to place organic seed multiplication and offer to our Organic C3 seed in Autumn 2014 are....

**EVOLUTION Winter Wheat.**

Evolution is the leading candidate variety being considered for the new 2013/14 Recommended List. Not only does it have the HIGHEST Treated yield of all the candidate varieties which will make it a serious contender in the conventional sector it also has the HIGHEST Untreated yields. It was a massive +12% higher yielding than Control Varieties Invicta and Scout, varieties well known and popular with the organic grower.

It has good agronomics and excellent all round disease resistance with scores of 8 for both yellow and brown rust, 7 for mildew and 6 septoria tritici.

We have C1 Stock Seed of EVOLUTION for sowing on seed contract this autumn 2013.

**SECUBRO Winter Triticale.**

(Streng – Engelen, Germany)

SECUBRO is a new winter triticale variety with outstanding all round credentials. It possesses very good standing power, superb resistance to all the major diseases, extremely winter hardy, has early maturity and due to the combination of all these traits produces very high yields, consistently.

As the name SECUBRO suggests, it reflects the security of the all round capabilities of the variety which looks set to offer the grower a more reliable and consistent performance when compared to other varieties.

We have limited C1 Stock Seed of SECUBRO for sowing on seed contract this autumn 2013.

We have further varieties you will hear much more about in the very near future but as these are spring sown crops we will cover these in our Spring 2014 Newsletter. Keep an eye out for exciting news about DAFNE Spring Wheat and GREGOR Spring Oat.
Grass Seed Special

DECIDING ON A GRASS SEED MIXTURE

Due to grass seed normally being sown as a mixture rather than a single variety there is sometimes a bit of a mystique regarding grass seed but when deciding what sort of mixture you need there are a few relatively simple questions that need answering before deciding on the right mixture.

How long am I going to leave the ley down for?

What am I going to do with it? (Cut, Graze or Both?)

Do I want clover in it?

LENGTH OF TIME

Ley mixtures are normally grouped in to Short (1-2 years), Medium (3-4 years) or Long Term Leys (5 years +)

Short Term Leys, normally containing Westerwolds & Italian Ryegrass, tend to be high yielding but lacking in quality compared to Hybrid/Perennial Ryegrass based Medium – Long Term Leys. 3-4 year leys utilising Hybrid & Perennial Ryegrass varieties are becoming more popular with the latest Hybrid Ryegrass varieties producing yields approaching that of Italian Ryegrass and quality similar to that of Perennial Ryegrass.

Long Term leys, will provide good grazing pastures but it must be remembered that any ley that has been down for more than 5-6 years will contain fewer than 50% of plants of cultivated species, the rest being indigenous species such as Meadow Grass, Bentgrass & Yorkshire Fog.

CUTTING, GRAZING OR DUAL PURPOSE?

Once it has been decided on the term of the ley, what it is to be utilised for should really be the next consideration.

If it is to be purely for cutting then it is best going for a mixture that contains varieties with a close spread of 67D dates so that, when you take the cut, all the varieties are as close to their optimum to ensure even quality. The later you normally take your first cut, the later the heading dates should be used as earlier heading varieties tend to have earlier spring growth whereas later varieties tend to have a larger proportion of their annual growth later in the season. This will help to even out the quantity of the grass available throughout the season. Timothy can be a good species to add to a grazing ley as it is known to be highly palatable and thrives in the cooler, damper conditions often found in the North of England and Scotland.

If a ley is to be for both cutting and grazing, a compromise will have to be made to produce a field suitable for both needs although if you are taking a first cut then aftermath grazing for the rest of the year a good percentage of varieties with the close 67D dates is probably advisable to maintain the quality of that all important first cut.

DECIDING ON A GRASS SEED MIXTURE

DIGESTIBILITY & D VALUES

Grass quality is probably as important as yield when it comes to deciding when to cut a field of grass for silage, especially with the first cut when 50% of a ley's annual yield is normally harvested in that first cut. When you cut can sometimes govern the varieties and species of grass that you use as each variety has a published "67D" date which is the date that the variety reaches a level that 67% of the plant is Digestible Organic Matter (i.e. after the water is absorbed or utilised).

WHY 67D?

As a grass plant starts to grow from a tender young shoot, either from a newly established grass plant or from new shoots being developed from an old plant, the digestibility falls. On average, a grass plant will lose 1% of D-value in every 3 days of growth. The 67D figure that has been arrived at is an optimum balance between yield and digestibility. If a variety is cut 3 days before the published 67D figure, you will have slightly less yield but 1% high digestibility and conversely, if it is cut 3 days later, you will have a higher yield but with lower digestibility.

RED CLOVER has made a bit of a comeback over the last few years with the breeding of modern more persistent varieties making them more flexible than older cultivars. Traditionally, Red Clover would only last 1-2 years but many of today’s varieties will last 3 or even 4 years, especially if used in cutting leys.

WHITE CLOVER can be categorised by leaf size with larger leafed varieties being ideal for cutting and smaller leafed varieties more suited to hard grazing.

White Clover is a stoloniferous plant and the stolon is the power house and food store of the white clover plant. As a rule of thumb, the larger the leaf, the thinner the stolon and whilst large leaved varieties have yields far exceeded those of smaller leaved cultivars, these thin stolons are far less able to withstand hard grazing and are likely to get damaged which will affect the regrowth of the clover plants. Small leaved types with their thicker stolons are able to withstand hard grazing without damage but can have annual yields, up to 50% less than the largest leaved varieties. If choosing a dual purpose mixture, ideally, like the grass components of a mixture, a blend of cultivars with different leaf sizes would be advisable including some of the medium leaved varieties which although lower yielding than larger leaved types are more persistent with yields higher than small leaved varieties.
Cope Seeds Company Update

Cope Seeds moves into New Premises

Since our last newsletter we have moved into new premises in a village called Scredington. We now have more room to grow and it gives us the opportunity to take on new staff. Good staff seem hard to come by, so if you know anyone who maybe interested in the seed and grain industry, tell them to get in touch. Job vacancies can be seen on our website www.copeseeds.co.uk/jobs.

Our move has also allowed us to have our own dedicated grass seed store onsite, supplying agricultural and amenity grass seed.

FREE WEEKEND Give Away in the Historic City of Lincoln

This Autumn we will be giving away a 2 night stay in a 4 bedroom, luxury townhouse in the historic bailgate area of Lincoln. The bailgate is steeped full of history and charm with independent shops, boutiques and restaurants.

So if you want to be in with a chance of winning a 2 night stay in Lincoln, you must place a minimum 1.000t order of any Autumn Organic Cereal Seed by 30th October 2013. The draw will take place on 31st October 2013 and the winner will be notified by telephone and letter.

www.norburyhouselincoln.co.uk

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