

NELSON: High Quality Bread Making Winter Wheat

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 us as soon as possible. If you would like us to market your NELSON from harvest 2014 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**



Organic NELSON Loaf produced by SHIPTON MILLS

Nelson displaying its large flag leaf at The Duchy Home Farm May 2013

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



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 wheat's. Definitely a variety for consideration. A safe reliable option.



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 wheat varieties including Invicta, JB Diego, Relay.

Crusoe is the only variety other than Cougar that has a rating of 7 for resistance to septoria tritici. 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



COUGAR: The HIGHEST Untreated Yields available in any wheat

COUGAR is the NEW Group 4 soft feed winter wheat variety with 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%).

Cougar has an outstanding agronomy package. It has the best foliar disease resistance package available in a winter wheat variety, enhanced by an exceptional level of resistance to Septoria tritici(7) and resistance to OWBM.

Cougar is short strawed so due consideration must be taken when considering field choices where known weed competition could be a problem. In terms of its development, Cougar develops early making it a good option in either early or late sown situations. It is also late maturing which extends its grain filling period delivering its headline yields.



	Mildew	Rust	Yellow Rust	Brown Rust	Septoria Tritici	Eyespot	OWBM
COUGAR	6	8	9	7	4	6	✓
Alchemy	7	6	4	6	6	7	x
Horatio	7	6	6	6	6	6	✓
Viscount	7	4	7	5	6	6	✓
JB Diego	5	8	4	5	5	6	x
Santiago	5	5	6	5	3	6	✓

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 comes from the Gladiator parentage and the Septoria tritici resistance comes from both Goodwill and Robigus.

From the same breeding stable as Cougar it is on the short side in terms of straw length and therefore we would suggest it would be best suited to the most weed free fields on the farm.

HORATIO Winter Wheat

HORATIO was new to last year's Recommended List and has since proven a popular variety with farmers.

Horatio has a good disease resistance profile with no major weaknesses, including resistance to orange wheat blossom midge. Horatio has shown an excellent yield potential in trials, both with and without fungicide.

Like Alchemy it has very good resistance to Septoria tritici.

Horatio performs consistently well across all areas of the UK, proving to be a consistent and reliable variety for the organic farmer.

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.



Pssst....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 produces grain with high lysine values and so is ideal for on-farm feeding

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.

	AGOSTINO	GRENADO	BENETTO
T yield (% ctrl, 8.1 t/ha)	104	99	101
Lodging %	[0]	[0]	[2]
Straw length (cm)	105	102	118
Ripening (days +/- Benetto)	[0]	[2]	[0]
Specific weight (kg/hl)	72.9	70.0	69.8
Protein content %	11.2	10.5	11.2

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 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 unlikely 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 responds favourably to the higher soil nitrogen status left by the bean crop.

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 86% 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 supersede it.

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



Wizard in Flower

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 about, but 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 and reached a high of circa £305 ex farm. At the time of writing, values have slipped back towards the £295/£300 ex farm due to a good supply of imports.

Deductions became a regular occurrence and did nothing to ease the pain. Wheat tended to see the largest deductions due to poor bushel weights, with barley and oats doing

better with fewer claims.

However we now need to look onwards and upwards. Autumn saw difficult drilling conditions and poor establishment. However with the organic market weighing heavily in the favour of spring sowing (30/70% respectively), we hope to see less impact on supply in comparison to the conventional market.

At time of writing, new crop prices for feed wheat are circa £250 ex farm with milling oats fetching similar money.

As seed suppliers we are well positioned to know potential supply from the forthcoming harvest. The biggest changes were seen in triticale and barley. Triticale sales have seen a massive 32% decrease. This is no surprise with a decrease in 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 wont find 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 milling 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 hear how your growing season is going. We will then include these updates in our monthly e-letter.



Cope Grain

Remember...

- We NEVER import organic grain.
- NEITHER do we charge a membership fee or set % commission fee for marketing your grain
- We can offer BUY BACK contracts on all our seed



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 areas of to offer you Organic C2 seed in Autumn 2014 are....

EVOLUTION Winter Wheat.

Evolution is the leading candidate being considered for the new 2014/15 HGCA Recommended List. Not only does it have the

HIGHEST Treated yield of all the candidate varieties which will make it a serious contend 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

SECURO Winter Triticale. (Streng – Engelen, Germany)

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

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.

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 SECUR 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 date of the varieties you use should be considered to maintain the D values of the grass that is cut.

If a field is purely for grazing, a mixture with a good spread of

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.

**Organic
Mustard Seed
Now Available**

For a competitive
quote please call
or email Simon

01529 421081

simon@copeseeds.co.uk
www.copeseeds.co.uk



CLOVER

In low input and organic situations, clover is the ideal companion to grass in any ley mixture, due not only to its ability to fix Nitrogen but also its good protein & trace element levels.

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 leafed varieties have yields far exceeded those of smaller leafed 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 leafed 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 leafed 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 leafed varieties which although lower yielding than larger leafed types are more persistent with yields higher than small leafed varieties



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 Solid Organic Matter (i.e. after the water is taken into account).

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.

WHAT IS DIGESTIBLE ORGANIC MATTER?

Digestible Organic Matter is the part of a grass plant that can be utilised by the animal. The other percentage is made of things such as cellulose and other material that will normally just pass through the animal without being absorbed or utilised.

For more advice and information, don't hesitate to contact us to discuss your requirements.

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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