

— FACT SHEET

Nelson Winter Wheat

- German E wheat
- High quality and high protein grain
- Premium earning potential
- Strong disease resistance
- Excellent weed suppressant

German E winter wheats offering high gluten, high quality and strong disease resistance are seeing rising demand in the UK. It's one of the best choices for growers whether it's for milling or feed.

The variety is bred by SZ Schweiger GbR, one of the leading German plant breeders who found it produced grain with outstanding bread-making quality and was classed as "E" quality, the highest quality rating attainable.

Agrii Harvest 2019 (Essex)

	Untreated	Untreated	Treated	Untreated	Treated	Untreated	Treated	Treated	Treated
	Yellow Rust (1-9)	Crop Heights (cm)	Crop Heights (cm)	Yield % Controls	Yield % Controls	Specific Weight (kg/l)	Specific Weight (kg/l)	Protein Content (%)	Hagberg (s)
Skyfall	5	73	73.3	89.2	104.1	69	76.7	12.8	247
Crusoe	1	75	76.7	105.7	102	75.6	78.6	13.3	294
Nelson	1	82	88.3	112.8	98.3	76.4	78.3	13	355

Agrii Harvest 2018

	Maturity	Untreated Crop Height	Treated Crop Height	Untreated Yield %	Treated Yield (t/ha)	Unt Specific Weight (Kg/Hl)	Treated Specific Weight (kg/hl)	Treated Protein (%)	Treated Hagberg (S)	N Offtake
Skyfall	6	80	74	115	8.67	70	80.7	13.8	365	217
Crusoe	6	80	73	70.3	9.18	65	81	13.7	348	212
Nelson	8	93	88	117.8	8.42	76.5	83.5	14.2	378	201

Trials data

- Nelson scored 7.1 for septoria, which was the best resistance in these trials. With scores of 9 for mildew, 9 for yellow rust and 7 for brown rust in years where other varieties have faltered under disease pressure and lost some of their resistance, Nelson has clearly shown its robustness
- Nelson is tall and was 10cm taller than Crusoe but scored a nine for standing
- Nelson matured earlier than any other variety in the private milling trial and matured two days earlier in its most Northern trial
- The specific weight of Nelson was the highest across the trial

Green leaf retention

	Green Leaf Retention (30/6)
NELSON	55%
Skyfall	33.8%
Crusoe	36.3%

Benefits of Nelson

- High untreated yield potential
- Suited to most soil types
- Strong disease resistance for septoria, mildew, yellow rust and brown rust
- Liked by millers, Nelson can achieve higher levels of protein from lower levels of nitrogen
- Nelson can earn a premium over normal group 1 premiums with its high protein and Hagberg falling number
- Tall and Stiff. Nelson height links directly with its ability to compete with blackgrass
- Provides a high yield of quality straw
- Wide drilling window, from the end of September to the end of February
- Early to mature

Strong market credentials

The UK imports more than 675,000 tonnes annually of strong wheat with high gluten quality for breadmaking (Germany, Canada, USA), yet more UK farmers are turning to E wheats due to agronomic and market benefits.

George Mason from Heygates millers, is clear that the demand for UK grown milling wheats is increasing.

"We are committed to using the maximum amount of homegrown wheat wherever possible however for some of our flour we require wheat with specific characteristics or functionality that we cannot achieve with traditional grains."

"We have identified that Nelson grown to 14% protein brings us quality and functionality that will displace imported wheat. Through baking, we found Nelson showed a white crumb, no evidence of weakness and produced loaves of good volume. By offering a buy-back contract that incentivises growers, the combination of an additional quality premium and the benefits of the variety on-farm, we are finding the variety very popular."



What the Trials Manager thinks...

Colin Patrick - Seeds Trials Manager – Agrii

"Agrii trials have confirmed the variety's consistently high yielding ability, excellent Group 1 quality and outstanding disease resistance.

"This is reflected in the high green leaf retention and impressive untreated yields we've seen in our work," commented Agrii seed trials manager, Colin Patrick. "In addition to a high HFN and protein content, Nelson has delivered a specific weight well ahead of any other Group 1 in our trials and very low screening losses.

"We've found it performs consistently well as both a first and second wheat on medium and heavy soils. Its rapid speed of development and wide sowing window makes it ideally suited to later drilling to combat black-grass too; an agronomic value enhanced by the strong grass weed competitiveness shown in our Stow Longa screening.

"Nelson's relatively early maturity is a character that will also be appreciated by many," he explained. "Overall, it stands out as a high security as well as high value wheat choice with much to offer in difficult black-grass situations, in particular"

What the grower thinks...

Berkshire arable farmer, Nick Philp, grows 80 hectares of Nelson E-class winter wheat, on contract to Heygates.

We're in the Thames Valley, which means it gets very hot and we are prone to drought. We're not in record-breaking wheat yielding country, but Nelson performs well, holding its Hagberg with good grain quality, says Nick.

Our fungicide bill on Nelson is cut by 30% and the premium and reduced growing cost more than makes up for the lesser yield, he says.

Nick also grows KWS Zyatt and Skyfall, and in 2019, the average yield was 9.4t/ha between them, and Nelson yielded 8.1t/ha.

Nelson is a tall variety, with good standing ability, which is a tool in our armoury against a number of grass weeds on the farm, he says.

We managed to plant 80 hectares of Nelson in October and will continue to grow it as long as there is a demand. We're strong believers in having secure markets, not just growing something that we hope someone will buy, adds Nick.

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