

Winter Cereal Variety Guide

2026/2027

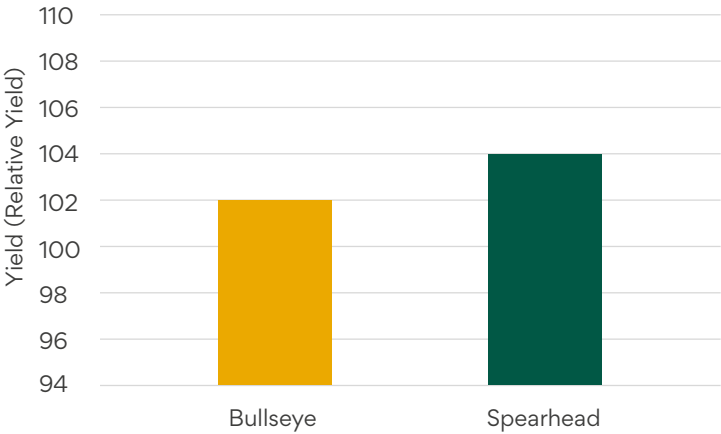


Bullseye

Sure to Hit the Target



DAFM Yield (Relative Yields)



Source: DAFM RLT 26

	Bullseye	Spearhead
Yield (Relative yield)	102	104
Resistance to:		
Septoria sp.	7	5
Lodging	8	5

Source: DAFM RLT 26

Breeder: **Nordic Seed**



Key Points

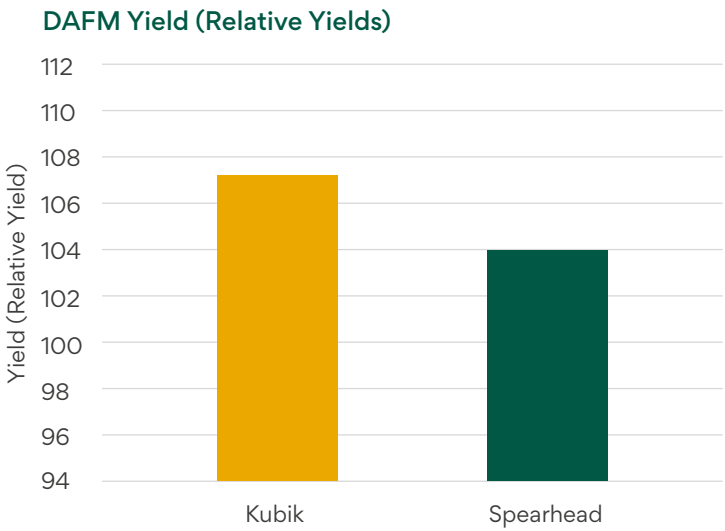
- ✓ High yielding potential variety.
- ✓ Slow maturing variety which suits early sowing.
- ✓ Excellent tillering capacity.
- ✓ Good lodging and good grain quality.
- ✓ The strongest septoria rated variety in the DAFM trials 2024 and 2025.





Kubik

The Square Root of Success



Source: DAFM RLT 26

Breeder: **Nordic Seed**

Key Points

- ✓ High yielding variety.
- ✓ Excellent grain and straw quality.
- ✓ A reliable choice due to its strong agronomic package.
- ✓ Vigorous variety , suited to both early and late drilling.
- ✓ Excellent Septoria resistance.

	Kubik	Spearhead
Yield (Relative yield)	107	104
Resistance to:		
Septoria sp.	6	5
Lodging	6	5
Yellow Rust	5	5
Mildew	7	8

Source: DAFM RLT 26

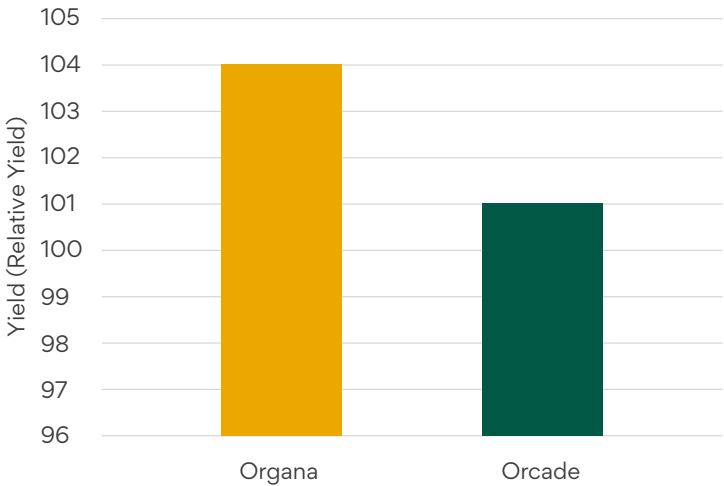


Organa

BYDV tolerant

Breeder: **Nordic Seed**

DAFM Yield (Relative Yields)



Source: DAFM recommended list

Variety	Yield (Relative Yield)	Mildew	Rhynchosporium	Brown Rust
Organa	104	8	7	8
Molly	98	8	7	7
Orcade	101	7	7	8

Source: DAFM recommended list 2026



Key Points

- ✓ Highest yielding in RLT 2026 at 105
- ✓ Outstanding all round disease resistance package.
- ✓ Very stiff straw and good resistance to lodging and brackling.
- ✓ Excellent grain quality with low screenings.



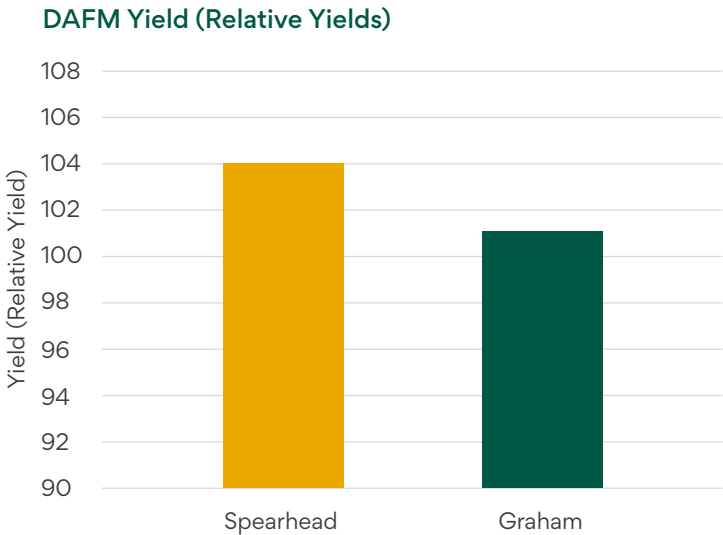


Spearhead

The Versatile Variety



Breeder: **Elsoms**
The Seed Specialists



Source: DAFM RLT 26

	Spearhead	Graham
Yield (Relative yield)	104	101
Resistance to:		
Mildew	8	7
Septoria sp.	5	5
Yellow Rust	5	5

Source: DAFM RLT 26

Key Points

- ✓ Highest yielding winter wheat variety in Drummonds trials for 3 consecutive years.
- ✓ Excellent resistance to mildew and yellow rust.
- ✓ Suitable for early drilling, with a slower maturation rate that allows for earlier sowing.
- ✓ Strong tillering capacity which contributes to its high yield potential.
- ✓ Outstanding performance in DAFM first & second-year winter wheat trials.



Molly

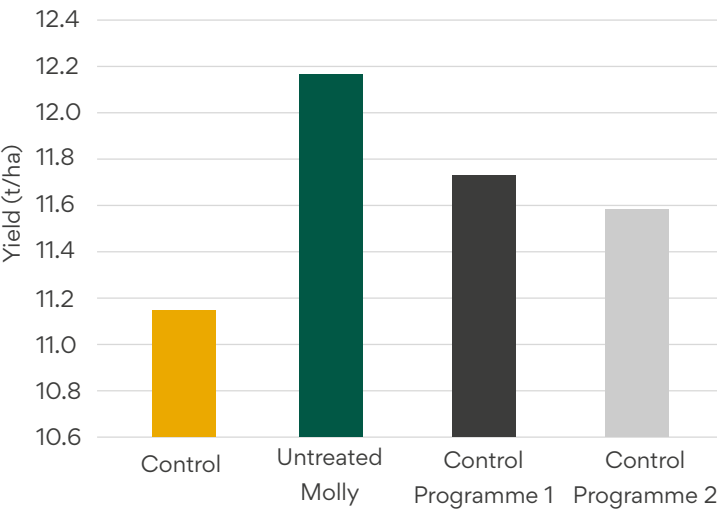
BYDV Tolerant

Breeder: **Nordic Seed**

Key Points

- ✓ One of the highest yielding two-row varieties on the DAFM RL for 2024.
- ✓ Strong tillering capacity allows for rapid ground cover in the spring.
- ✓ Excellent disease resistance, particularly against Rhynchosporium, Brown rust and Net blotch.
- ✓ Early maturing allows for an earlier harvest.
- ✓ Good quality grain with low screenings.

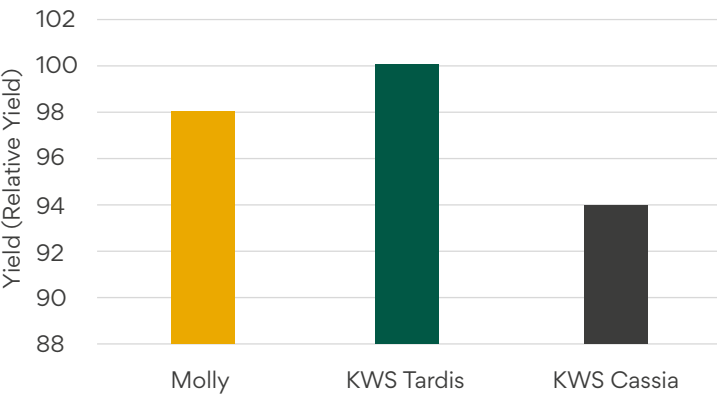
Drummonds BYDV Trials 2023



Control = no aphicide
Control Programme 1 = standard aphicide at 2 leaf stage
Control Programme 2 = standard aphicide at 2 & 4 leaf stages

Source: Drummonds BYDV trials 2023

RLT 2026



Variety	Yield (Relative Yield)	Mildew	Rhynchosporium	Brown Rust
Molly	98	8	7	7
KWS Tardis	100	6	7	6
KWS Cassia	94	5	4	7

Source: DAFM recommended list trial 2026



Unlock Your Soil's Potential

Soil sampling is an essential tool for all farms. It identifies where lime is needed and highlights areas of high and low soil fertility, allowing fertilisers and organic manures to be targeted more accurately.

Correcting soil fertility improves nutrient use efficiency and overall crop performance. Soils should be sampled every 3–5 years. The best time to take soil samples is September to March.

Drummonds Soil Sampling Service

- Automatic GPS soil samplers for accurate soil sampling.
- Soil analysis options:
 - ◇ S1 Basic: pH, P, K, Mg and Lime Req.
 - ◇ BS Broad Spectrum: pH, P, K, Mg, Lime Req, Trace Elements and CEC
 - ◇ Optional extras: Organic matter and heavy metals
- Full-colour coded nutrient maps of your farm.
- Soil nutrient recommendations are provided to ensure all crop nutrition requirements are met.
- Variable-rate application plans prepared as part of your nutrient management programme.



Drummonds Lime Spreading Service

The application of lime to agricultural land is crucial for soil nutrient management. It corrects soil pH levels, fundamental for optimising nutrient availability and ensuring the overall health and productivity of crops.

Why apply lime?

- Increase soil pH
- Release locked-up nutrients in the soil
- Improve fertiliser efficiency
- Encourage better root growth
- Increase cereal & grass yields

Drummonds provide:

1. Precision GPS controlled Lime Spreading Service
2. Variable rate spreading option
3. Dedicated Drummonds equipment
4. Experienced team of advisors
5. Available from all Drummonds branches

Ready to transform your soil and boost your yields?

Contact your local Drummonds branch today to book your lime spreading service.





Soil Conditioners

Ground Limestone

Plays a vital role in managing soil pH on Irish farms and is often considered the most cost-effective fertiliser available. An incorrect soil pH can lead to fertiliser value losses of up to 20%, so incorporating liming into your nutrient plan is crucial. It is estimated that 1.5-2 million tonnes of lime needs to be spread annually on Irish farms to maintain soil nutrient fertility. Research suggests that lime applications yield results in grain yield responses of >1.5t/ha.

AgriPhos

A low-carbon fertiliser and soil conditioner, offering a unique blend of Phosphorus, Potassium and trace elements. It enhances soil structure and promotes microbial activity, leading to improved plant growth and sustainable soil health.

SoilWorx

A locally produced organic fertiliser and soil conditioner, made from heat-treated free-range poultry manure. It provides a natural source of nutrients (4.3-1-3.2) in a safe, easy-to-spread 5 mm pellet. Similar to AgriPhos, SoilWorx supports soil biology and builds soil organic matter to encourage strong root development and healthy crop growth. It is approved for use on organic farms and holdings, it fits well into both organic and conventional farming systems.



Seeding Rates

To calculate the optimal seed rate for your crop:

- Start with the Thousand Grain Weight (TGW):
 - ◇ TGW varies by variety and seed batch.
 - ◇ It's printed on the front of all Drummonds seed bags.
- Determine your target plant population (plants/m²):
 - ◇ Influenced by:
 - > Soil type
 - > Weather patterns
 - > Sowing date

Apply the following formula:

$$\text{Seed Rate (kg/ha)} = \frac{(\text{TGW} \times \text{Target plants/m}^2)}{\% \text{ Establishment}}$$

Example: A TGW of 58, a target of 280 plants/m² and 85% establishment gives: $(58 \times 280) \div 85 = 191 \text{ kg/ha}$

Autumn Drilling Guide

Drilling dates and seeding rates are advisory only. Consult your IASIS registered agronomist for specific drilling advice for your situation.

	August					September					October					November				
	1 st	5 th	10 th	15 th	20 th	25 th	1 st	5 th	10 th	15 th	20 th	25 th	1 st	5 th	10 th	15 th				
Winter OSR	50 seeds/m ²																			
Hybrid	200-220 seeds/m ²																			
6-Row Conventional																				
Winter Barley																				
2-Row																				
2-Row	300-350 seeds/m ²																			
Winter Wheat	200-400 seeds/m ²																			
Winter Oats	350-400 seeds/m ²																			



2026 Tillage Crop Results

Weather

Once again weather has played a serious part in establishing and growing of cereal crops, both in the winter and spring time. Winter cereals were sown in relatively good conditions for the vast majority, however rainfall from September – March calculated 677.5mm in Dublin Airport. This affected crop establishment on late sown crops and evidently waterlogging in some cases across the region. Following the wet winter was a late wet spring where most crops suffered as farmers were unable to travel the land to apply fertiliser or get spring crops sown. This decreased the potential for crops as lack of early nitrogen in winter crops reduces tillering.

A sustained period of dry weather allowed spring crops to be sown but lack of moisture in late April/ May proved difficult for these spring crops to establish. This was problematic as these crops were already late sown and needed good establishment to catch up.

Winter Barley

Winter Barley experienced yet another early harvest which portrayed lower yields than expected. A combination of the wet winter and hot weather during grain fill left winter barley at a great disadvantage as lack of nitrogen limited yield potential. A serious problem visible from the wet winter was 'over tilling' or 'double tilling' of seedbeds as it took longer for rainwater to filter through the soil and encouraging water to lie on the surface, with less air space.

The six-row winter barley varieties in our trials generally produced high screenings and poor KPH values, indicating that grain fill and final grain quality were affected by the hot weather. KWS Joyau was the pick of the six-row varieties, mainly because of its earlier maturity, which allowed it to complete more of its grain filling before the worst of the heat. This gave it an advantage over later-maturing varieties, which were exposed to greater heat stress during the critical grain-filling period.

Among the two-row winter barley varieties, Organa and Legendis performed particularly well in trials across the country. Both produced high yields while maintaining excellent KPH values and grain quality, even under challenging conditions. Their strong straw and good resistance to lodging further added to their performance. Organa is the highest yielding two row variety on the market this autumn.

Seeding rates are likely to be more variable this autumn because seed size and thousand-grain weight differ considerably between varieties. As demonstrated at our open day this year there can be 1 ton/ac difference in sowing at an inaccurate seeding rate.

Winter Wheat

Winter wheat results were mixed across Ireland, with the prolonged dry and hot weather bringing grain fill to an early finish and effectively "burning in" some crops. This reduced both yield and grain quality, particularly where



crops were already under stress. BYDV caused further losses, with affected areas showing blackened heads standing upright above the crop, a clear sign of poor grain development and reduced quality. Yellow rust was less severe overall this year, but it still demanded close attention. Where spray timings were missed, growers were left playing catch-up and trying to limit the damage rather than prevent it. Timely control can cost as little as €10/ac, making early identification and treatment particularly worthwhile. Observations made throughout the season, Scope and Champion were the varieties most affected by yellow rust, highlighting the need to monitor susceptible crops closely regardless of the wider disease pressure.

Grain quality was excellent in our winter wheat trial this year, no lodging was recorded at the trial site. This was an encouraging result and meant crops remained standing through to harvest, helping to protect grain quality.

Kubik and Spearhead were the highest-yielding varieties at our trial site, with Kubik rating 107 and spearhead rating 104 for yield on the 2026 national recommended list. Both performed strongly under this year's difficult growing conditions.

Disease control had a major influence on yield. Untreated varieties that were susceptible to rust yielded consistently more than 20% less than their treated counterparts. This highlights the importance of matching fungicide programmes to variety resistance, disease pressure and local conditions.

Looking ahead, Sunspire and NOS 12 are two very exiting varieties worth watching. Both looked very promising in our trials this year. Further results will be needed to establish how consistently they perform across different

sites and seasons, but their early performance suggests they could become useful options for Irish tillage growers.

Oilseed Rape

Oilseed rape performed very well across the region this year, with yields ranging from 1.75 to 2.6 tonnes per acre. These results show the crop's yield potential where establishment and disease control are managed well.

Improved genetics, combined with effective plant growth regulator (PGR) and canopy management, has transformed oilseed rape production. Better control of crop height and canopy density can improve light penetration, flowering and standing ability, while also making crops easier to manage and harvest. As a result, oilseed rape is set to remain a leading break-crop choice on Irish tillage farms for the 2026/2027 season.

Modern varieties now combine yield potential with several valuable traits. Depending on the variety, these may include resistance or tolerance to pod shatter, turnip yellows virus and verticillium stem stripe, as well as improved disease resistance. Varieties such as PT312, PT315, Armada and Aurelia offer useful combinations of these characteristics.

Oilseed rape also provides an important opportunity to tackle difficult grass weeds such as blackgrass and Italian ryegrass. Moving away from continuous cereals allows growers to use different herbicide options and timings.

With strong yields, improved variety traits and added value for grass-weed management, oilseed rape has become much more than a simple break crop. It can broaden weed-control options and improve the rotation ahead of the following cereal crop.





Drummonds have a long tradition in handling and trading Oilseed rape. Our trading desk has been busy doing forward trades on the back of a strengthening oilseed market. If this is something of interest then any Drummonds branch will be happy to discuss details further.

Grass Weeds

Grass weed problems are increasing in Irish cereals, particularly blackgrass, Italian ryegrass and sterile brome. Tight rotations, fewer herbicide options and increasing resistance are making these weeds harder to control. Unpredictable weather can also prevent timely spraying, while post-emergence treatments are less reliable once weeds are well established.

For the best results, winter wheat and winter barley should receive a suitable pre-emergence herbicide, ideally within 24 to 48 hours of sowing, to receive optimum weed control. The loss of flufenacet is a major setback, particularly in winter barley and makes early treatment and good seedbed conditions even more important.

Where serious grass weed problems are present, avoid sowing winter barley, as limited control options may allow the seedbank to increase. Oilseed rape can provide alternative herbicide options, while spring barley can help break the weed cycle and widen control timings.

Herbicides alone will not solve the problem. Use rotation, stale seedbeds, machinery hygiene and prevent surviving weeds from setting seed. Above all, do not ignore the problem - early identification and action are essential.

Cover Crops

There is a huge demand for cover crops once again due to the ACRES and EIP schemes available to farmers again this year. Farmers also know the value of maintaining a crop in the soil especially over these harsher winters to maintain as much nutrients in the soil as possible. There has been an increasing in demand for forage rye and grazing cover crops this year as farmers are feeding large amounts of winter fodder at present. Now is the ideal timing for growing these winter feed crops to achieve a good cover for late winter/ early spring and save the burden on farmers having to import fodder on their farms.

Winter rye: Drummonds are developing markets for rye amongst our feed customers. There will be a

limited quantity of rye required for harvest 2027. The Drummonds agronomy team will advise the best variety and agronomy involved in producing a profitable crop. We have a tonnage of both Rye and Oats and some fodder cover crops available so do not hesitate to give any of our sales representatives or branch offices a call for more information.

Drummonds are looking for more winter Wheat, barley and oats seed growers, the requirements are:

- Land needs to be after a break crop
- No history of problem grasses or weeds
- No history of wild oats

If your land meets this criteria, please get in contact with any Drummonds representative.

Soil Health

With the harvest wrapped up and fields cleared early, now is the time for farmers to get their soil tested to ensure next season's crop is not lacking in any nutrients and look after the soil's health.

An optimal soil pH will unlock all relative nutrients and make them readily available for the following crop. Liming is the forgotten practice on tillage farms, Drummonds can provide lime for your farm and if needs be the lime can be spread for the farmer too. Lime for soil health, lime for crop success.

Soil samples should be taken every 4/5 years. Each sample covers 10 acres. Drummonds supply a service for farmers to carry out a wide range of soil tests, from a simple test (soil pH and NPK values) to a broad-spectrum test including trace element values etc.



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