



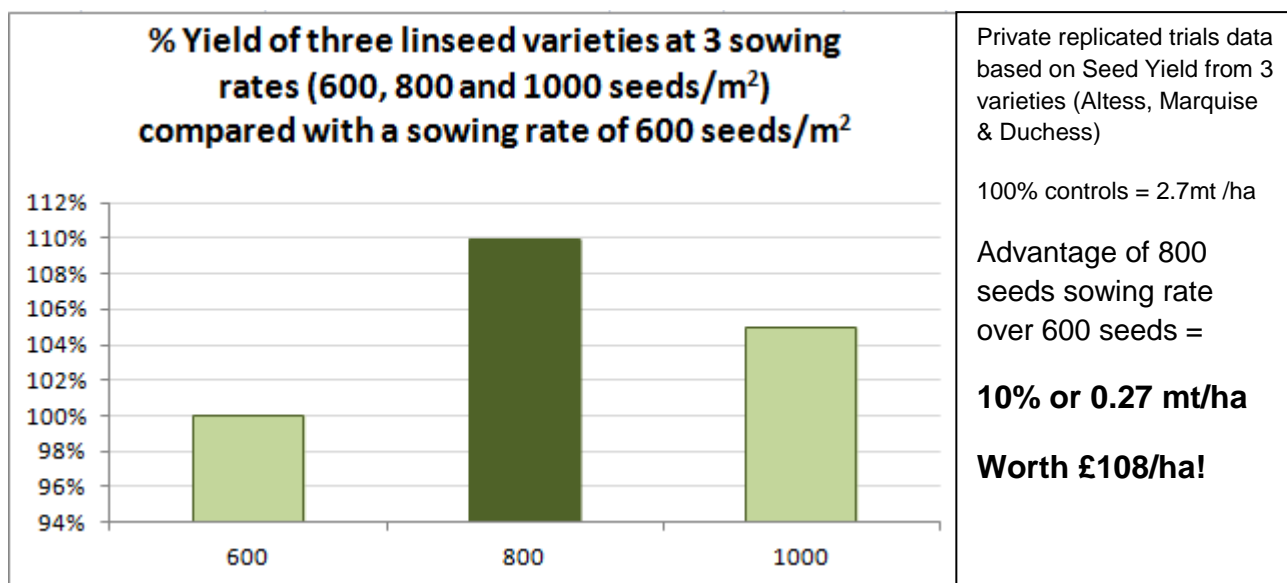
Press Release- dated 6th March 2015

The First Steps To Increasing Linseed Yields

Linseed has rarely been in such high demand. The naturally high Omega-3 content of UK linseed has seen a significant increase in the use for specialist animal feeds. As the UK's exclusive supplier of linseed to the French animal feed company Valorex, this demand is reflected in the price that UK linseed grower can now achieve.

The 'John Nix Farm Management Pocket Book 2015' says of Linseed that "The price for the 2015 crop is £286 per tonne (oilseed rape +10%)", today the Premium Crops contract price has risen by almost half as much again, to up to £400 per tonne for Brown Linseed.

Premium Crops are the UK's largest contractor of linseed and so have a strong interest in getting the best from the UK hectare. As part of an ongoing investment to improve the agronomy of linseed Premium Crops commissioned a range of sowing rate trials that demonstrated that the historical trend towards lower sowing rates (around 600 seeds/m²) has been deleterious to yields.



As a result of these trials, Premium Crops are encouraging all of their growers to sow at the 800 seeds/m² sowing rate and have even subsidised the seed price to minimise any additional seed out-lay.

To achieve the best establishment linseed requires a firm, fine seed bed and should be drilled to a depth of 14 to 25mm (1/2 to 1 inch maximum). The company experience is that it sees far more problems associated with drilling too deep than it does by drilling too shallow. As a result it suggests rolling before drilling to help maintain drill depth. The ideal soil temperature of 6 to 8^oc can often mean that sowing takes place as from mid-March to as late as the end of April. This wide sowing window does allow room for additional flushes of blackgrass pre-drilling. When followed by a pre-emergence application of Tri-allate* (Avadex Excel 15G[®]), linseed is a very viable option for blackgrass control. The company has made an EAMU application for Centurion-Max to further enhance blackgrass control.



Recent developments in the breeding of linseed, such as the introduction of “EasyCut” varieties combined with a greater knowledge of how best to grow and harvest the crop, has resulted in fewer issues in handling the crop.

EasyCut varieties are new lines that have a shorter stem with less fibre content making them easier to harvest.

Regular growers of linseed tell us that it is important to cut linseed faster than you would other crops, taking the earliest opportunity to cut EVEN if the stems are still green. In fact combines handle straw at this stage much easier than when it is ‘weathered’ and fibres separate away from the stem.

“EasyCut really is easy to cut!” says linseed Grower Ivor Venner of Somerset, “It was easier than any previous variety we’ve grown – It was an absolute doddle. And we got a tonne to the acre. Linseed is my best break crop following wheats”

John Ashton of Lincolnshire supports that view, “We flew through it, cutting 42 acres in one short sunny day (30th August). The knife had done three seasons but the combine didn’t stop once. MARQUISE was easier to cut than any other variety we have grown in the past”

Rob Rouston of Leicestershire, who has been an ALTESS grower for several seasons says, “I have never known linseed combine as this does – it’s a dream. We’ve cut 89 acres in one day, cutting into the early hours of the morning, totally dispelling the myth that the sun needs to be shining”.

To aid growers harvesting linseed Premium Crops have produced a Linseed Combining Guide, which can be downloaded from the website at [http://www.premiumcrops.com/files/Combine_Instructions_-_Spring_Linseed\(1\).pdf](http://www.premiumcrops.com/files/Combine_Instructions_-_Spring_Linseed(1).pdf)

In addition to the significant added value premiums that are available for harvest 2015, all of the Premium Crops contracts are backed by a full technical and agronomic support package and regular news updates, including results from ongoing agronomy and variety trials.

Full details of the wide range of contract options that are available can be obtained by contacting:

Premium Crops at Whitedale Farm, East Street, Hambledon, Hampshire. PO7 4RZ

Tel: 023 9263 2883 e-mail: info@premiumcrops.com or visit www.premiumcrops.com

Ends.

*Tri-allate is the active ingredient of Avadex Excel 15G approved for use on winter and spring linseed under EAMU No. 20101945.

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