



Spring Linseed Bulletin

01/17

This is the first of a series of bulletins to 2017 linseed growers. These will cover all aspects of linseed production and we hope you will consider the points made in conjunction with your own experiences and those of your agronomist. Please read these notes carefully.

SEED DELIVERIES

Seed deliveries are now underway.

Please check carefully that your delivery matches your order.

SEED RATES AND VARIETY SEGREGATION

Please check your order confirmation for your correct seeding rate as seeding rates differ considerably depending on variety and seed lot.

Variety	TSW	Seeding rate @ 650 seeds/m ²	Seeding rate @ 800 seeds/m ²
Festival*	8	52kg/ha	64kg/ha
Omegalin*	7.2	47kg/ha	57.6kg/ha
Marquise**	7.5	49kg/ha	60kg/ha
Duchess**	7	46kg/ha	56kg/ha
Altess**	8	53kg/ha	64kg/ha
Scorpion*	6	39kg/ha	48kg/ha
VT50 (also called NuLin)*	5.5	36kg/ha	44kg/ha

* Do not mix with ANY OTHER varieties. These varieties have very specific end markets and mixing them either at drilling or in store would drastically decrease the value of the produce to the end user.

** Easycut varieties, Marquise, Altess and Duchess, can be mixed with each other, but not with any other varieties.

DRILLING

Any modern drill will handle Linseed easily. Linseed requires a fine firm seedbed, created with as few passes as possible.

- Row widths of 10-30cm show no difference in yields
- Drill at **15-25mm into moisture** - we see more problems from crops being drilled too deep rather than too shallow, so you must check. This is particularly important if you are using a newer generation of tine drills.
- **Ensure good seed to soil contact**
- Do not over consolidate
- If seedbeds are puffy then consider rolling prior to drilling
- Rolling post drilling can be of benefit to conserve moisture, pushing flints/stones out of harm's way, allowing a lower cut at harvest (which makes cutting easier!) or where a pre-emergence herbicide is to be used.

DRILLING DATE

- Linseed requires a good, **warm, moist** seedbed for rapid and even establishment.

If the **conditions are right**, sowing can commence from end-March onwards. Typically, you should be looking for 5°C soil temperature and a mild run of weather.

- You need to be prepared to inspect crops regularly for flea-beetle activity as the crop is emerging.

WEED CONTROL

Start clean—dirty stubbles should be sprayed off prior to cultivation.

PRE-EMERGENCE WEED CONTROL

Callisto offers good control of difficult weeds such as polygonums and fat hen, and is the preferred herbicide option. Best results come from applications onto moist soils immediately after **drilling and rolling**.

Product	Rate	Water Volume	Notes
Callisto	0.75-1.5lt/ha	200lt/ha	Pre-crop emergence. Best onto a rolled seedbed. Requires moisture.

Callisto has approval under EAMU so use is entirely at grower risk. Using Callisto often removes the need for further post-emergence herbicides.

GRASSWEEDS

With high levels of herbicide resistance to post-emergence grassweed herbicides, Avadex used pre or post drilling of the crop is an excellent tool to manage herbicide resistance and should give full control of Wild Oats and adequate Blackgrass and Brome control. Where control is not full, weeds will be sensitised to later herbicide applications. We recommend:

Product	Rate	Notes
Avadex SG	15kg/ha	Apply in front of drill which will then incorporate the granules. Roll post planting. Post planting application is possible but needs moisture. Should be within 24 hours maximum of planting (but the closer the better).

PHOSPHATE AND POTASH

Linseed does not make great demands on Phosphate or Potash. **If your P and K indices are at maintenance levels, application can be done at any stage during the crop cycle.**

Yield	P	K	Notes
2.5lt/ha	30kg/ha	30kg/ha	Straw incorporated

NITROGEN

Linseed does not redistribute Nitrogen from the stems and leaves to the grains. This means that early Nitrogen to build the crop canopy has little effect on yield (excess Nitrogen at this time can in fact increase lodging risk). The flipside of this coin is that the only determinant for yield occurs after the start of flowering. To short the crop of nutrients and water at that time severely reduces yield.

These facts can be used to rationalise fertiliser usage as follows:

Only apply sufficient Nitrogen early on in the crops life (late March—April) to ensure adequate crop height and canopy development, whilst minimising lodging risk.

Apply the balance of Nitrogen towards green bud stage (early May—at least a month after the first application) to ensure optimum yield. If the crop is under drought stress at this time, total rates may be reduced. In recent years, Sulphur deficiency has become an issue with arable crops in most areas of the country so add 30-75kg/ha of fertiliser Sulphur to the first Nitrogen application depending on deficiency.

Soil Index	Nitrogen Rate	Notes
0	50kg/ha	Add 30-75kg/ha Sulphur in seedbed or when rows are visible
Higher Index & Organic Soils	25kg/ha	

Green bud applications will be described in later bulletins.

Review all Nitrogen applications to ensure adherence to the requirements of RB209

PEST CONTROL

Flea Beetle (not to be confused with Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle)

Most seed is dressed with a nutrient complex seed treatment to maximise germination, emergence and root development.

Rapid establishment is only the first step in control. Insecticide applications will probably be necessary particularly as the crop emerges.

Growers must be vigilant as flea beetle can be absent one day and present the next.

Flea beetle damage can be widespread and severe for crops under 5cm tall or in poor growing conditions. Apply an approved pyrethroid insecticide immediately damage is seen. Repeat as required.

Symptoms are holes or notches in the cotyledons or first true leaves. Often 1-2cm black beetles can be seen on emerging plants, especially when sunny.

Do not confuse flea beetle attacks with pigeon grazing - **this is a very common mistake**. Pigeons remove the cotyledon leaves, leaving just a stem, flea beetle generally do not do this. Do not assume that because you have only seen one or two pigeons around that they are not capable of significant damage—they would be grazing very early in the morning in greater numbers.

LINSEED SEED GROWERS

Please remember to retain at least 2 labels (or each seed lot sown) from the seed bags.

Always read the label before using pesticides. Use pesticides safely.

CONTACTS

If in doubt, consult your agronomist on any of these points.

Our agronomist Sam Deane is also happy to take your calls on questions or queries you might have.

Tel: 02392 632883 Mobile: 07917 275053 Email: sam.deane@premiumcrops.com

We have an increased requirement for Canary Seed this year. To learn more about the terms please contact our Contracts team on 02392 632883 and ask for Sam, Lee, Dave or Josh. Alternatively, contact our Farm Contracts Manager, Francesca Parker-Partridge, on 07387 023624.

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