

Summary Checklist

- Are you considering growing oilseed rape for quality premiums?
- Can you minimise volunteers using your existing rotation?
 - Land with a 4 or more years break after oilseed rape
 - Virgin oilseed rape land
- Can you minimise volunteers using your cultivation and establishment methods?
 - Use stale seedbeds
 - Use minimal tillage or ploughing
 - Where possible try to control volunteers in stubbles before burying the seed
- Do you have adequate storage on farm?
 - Segregation of Vistive from other oilseed rape crop types
 - Ability to store any part of the crop separately that may be contaminated by volunteers until oil quality has been analysed

Next Steps

- If you wish to take advantage of this new opportunity now is the time to act
- Contracts are available with significant grower premiums for planting autumn 2009 for harvest 2010
- Contact us today for further information

Information on this bulletin is a partial abstraction and the full HGCA Recommended List Database can be consulted at www.hgca.com

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Checklist For Growing Vistive Winter Oilseed Rape



Introduction

Vistive is a new range of winter oilseed rape with a High Oleic, Low Linolenic fatty acid oil profile (HOLL). This is a much healthier and high stability oil for the food processing industry. It also gives growers an ideal opportunity to secure premiums in winter oilseed rape.

The contract production of Vistive oilseed rape allows:

- Supply to match the demand from the food industry
- Traceability from field to processor to shop shelf
- Quality control on farm
- UK production for local consumption

The linolenic acid content in the oil must be maintained to a minimum (less than 3-4% subject to contract) to be of value to the food industry. If the crop fails to meet specification it will be downgraded to standard oilseed rape.

While varieties differ in their oil profile, contamination from double low or high erucic acid oilseed rape crops is the most important factor influencing the level of linolenic acid.

When growing Vistive varieties it is important to:

- Consider the rotation
- Reduce the impact of volunteers
- Segregate the crop from other OSR at and after harvest
- Obtain confirmation of the oil profile before moving it off the farm

Maintaining Oil Quality

It is important to choose fields carefully with volunteers in mind and, while it is not possible to be prescriptive, the following factors should be considered.

- **Rotational break**
 - It doesn't need to be virgin land
 - A traditional break of 4 or more years may be preferred but can be less if volunteer control is good
 - The risk from volunteers is reduced once Vistive is established in the rotation

- **Cultivation and establishment systems**

- Spray off stubbles or stale seedbeds with Roundup
- Minimal tillage and plough-based establishment systems are equally appropriate
- Remember ploughing can bring up volunteers
- Direct-drilling or autocast should be avoided

- **Judge each field individually**

- Inspect for volunteers in autumn and spring
- Separate out any part of the crop with significant contamination from volunteers and harvest separately

Note: Isolation distances were previously advised but the likelihood of contamination is minimal and any minor effects will be diluted across the field. It is good practice to maintain a physical barrier (e.g. hedge, ditch) between adjacent crops, and a 50m isolation distance from any high erucic (HEAR) crops.

Storage And Testing

Crops must be stored on farm until they can be moved either to an intermediate store or to the crush. During this time the crop will be tested to make sure that it achieves specification. Ensure that:

- Adequate storage is available on farm or harvest movement provisions are made in advance. Some grain companies may provide off-farm storage
- The crop is segregated from other oilseed rape crops
- Any part of the crop possibly contaminated with volunteers can be stored separately and quality checked
- Representative samples are taken and sent off for oil quality assessment