

CYO Seeds (Midlands) Ltd
Mobile Seed & Grain Processors
01858 880882
www.cyoseeds.com
info@cyoseeds.com
accounts@cyoseeds.com
charlesroberts@cyoseeds.com

Newsletter

Issue 91

August 2025

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

On behalf of everyone at CYO Seeds (Midlands) Ltd, we'd like to thank you all for your ongoing support and we hope to be servicing your needs for many years to come. We strive to offer you all the best service we can, through professionalism, reliability, integrity and value for money. Through these values **CYO Seeds (Midlands) Ltd has grown to become the largest independent mobile processor of Farm Saved Seed in the country.** *To that end, if you're not already pre-booked in call us when you need us.*

WEATHER AND POLITICS

The weather's varied drastically over recent months, it's gone from wet to super hot and dry which has caused all kinds of issues throughout the growing season and lead up to harvest. At least with the weather you can take some consolation and some certainty. If the sun's shining, it's going to be hot and dry. If it's raining, you're going to get wet. Whilst with our political system and politicians, you have no idea from one minute to the next what's going to happen. One minute they're bleating on about sustainability and the need for our farmers to be able to feed our growing population. The next minute, it's open up your farms to all and sundry and instead of food, plant more flowers to appease the voters en masse. How can that be right? It just doesn't make sense. After all, everybody knows that bread, cereals, milk, butter, meat, flour etc. all come from the supermarket, not farms!

YOUR OWN SEED IS BETTER THAN BOUGHT IN SEED

We're noticing during recent conversations with you guys that some have asked whether bought in seed might be better than your own seed this year! If you're thinking of changing varieties/species, fair enough to a certain extent but some seem to be talking about changing because they think theirs isn't/won't be good enough. Before you cast your own seed aside that you've lovingly looked after and nurtured all year, in favour of the unknown, ask yourself the following: -

Have I done this before and been proved very wrong when the new seed turns up and they won't take it back?

Will the new seed be better than mine because it's first (C1) or second (C2) generation? No, first and second generations are a myth, they're a "Certification" standard that bears no relation to generations. Even C1 seed is at least 12 years old (12 generations) before you see it on farm commercially for the first time.

I've Farm Saved the same seed a number of times, it must be getting too old and that's why it's not performing? If you think about it, it can't be, considering how old "new seed" is before you see it as C1 or C2, a few more generations won't make any difference.

If I'm buying in seed that's the same variety as I've already got, will it have more vigour, more yield potential, be younger etc. than mine? No on all counts. It's just been grown on other farms, being reproduced year on year to "within tolerances" until someone wants to buy it. It'll even be the same age as yours. It'll essentially be the same as what you've already got, just not processed and graded etc. as well as yours could have been.

Will a new variety that's showing a potential gain of a few points on the Recommended List actually result in extra yield etc. on my farm? It's debatable.

Is my seed really that bad? Do I need to buy all "new seed" or just enough to multiply up for farm saving next year? You can jump whole hog and spend a fortune on "new seed", or depending on what drilling date and rate you prefer etc., for each tonne of seed planted you should end up with about 40+t for next year to take your Farm Saved Seed from. Only you can answer this one.

Should I buy a little bit of "new seed" anyway? It's not a bad idea to buy a little bit of seed each year. It allows you to trial it and see how it gets on with your land and your farming methods. It also gives you some flexibility.

Will the claimed yield increase and disease profile etc. cover the extra cost of the seed? Probably not.

Am I going for bought in seed because mine hasn't performed as well as I think it should have? Possibly, it's been a hell of a stressful year for all crops and most farmers too!!

Would my seed have been absolutely fine if I'd had it germination and vigour tested and had it processed like I normally do? YES

Has the new seed been looked after like my own has been? There's a very good chance you could be buying in trouble.

What else could be in the new seed as "within tolerance" ad-mixture? There could easily be Ergot, Wild oats, off species and other nasties! Do you really want to buy in issues you'll be regretting for years to come?

Will the new seed be delivered in time?

Will it turn up at all? Not if it's sold out or wasn't good enough for seed (sold out sounds much better than not good enough!)

Will the bought in seed be as good as mine if I'd had it processed? We'll let you figure that one out!! Just remember, as opposed to bought in seed **we can make the best of your own seed.** We use large sieves to get rid of the smalls, whilst aspirations and gravity separation will deal with the lighter stuff. Whatever we take out during processing can go straight back on your heap and your seed is there when you want it. You're in control of the final seed quality; you can vary what seed dressings you want and you can even have non standard weights in the bags to make it fit with your systems.

Farm Saved Seed has no standards/tolerances to hide behind. We process your seed hard, take out as much of the smalls, shrivelled, diseased, ad-mixture elements etc. as possible, treat it for diseases and bag it up, all on your farm site. It's as simple as that...

GERMINATION AND VIGOUR TESTS - INFLUENCES OF THE HOT WEATHER

Getting your seed tested properly this year will be more important than ever. With the very high temperatures we've seen in recent weeks, we've found that in some circumstances, seed dormancy is an issue. A DIY germination test doesn't always have the technicality to identify a dormancy issue and the seed is written off unduly when in reality it just needed handling differently. The vast majority of them will be absolutely fine. For your own peace of mind, send us a representative sample(s) of your seed lot(s) for testing. Remember, ideally, the sample(s) should be taken from random places throughout each seed lot. **Don't forget to label them!!**

HUMBLE BASIC SEED DRESSINGS – HOW IMPORTANT ARE THEY?

We have a full complement of seed dressings available this year. For more information, please visit our website www.cyoseeds.com. Don't forget, **you only get one chance to apply a seed dressing, once it's in the ground it's too late to defend it against seed and soil borne diseases.** To a certain extent you can test for seed borne diseases but **you can't test for soil borne diseases.** Don't gamble with your crop's potential before it's even out of the ground. You might be lucky and only get a small yield loss of say about 100kg/ha (usually it's much more if there's any disease involved) due to drilling undressed seed and the consequential seedling diseases. This loss would barely be perceivable as you're cracking on with the harvest but it soon mounts up, for every 10ha combined **you've lost at least 1000kg of grain that should have been in the shed** (worth considering, don't you think?). At the other end of the scale, your crop could have an issue with something really nasty like soil borne Bunt; when that comes in off the field, you'll have a hell of a job to even sell it. A simple seed dressing could have prevented these losses and would've only cost a few pounds per ha for some peace of mind in turbulent times!

PREFERRED SEED PROCESSORS

As lots of you will already know, **CYO Seeds (Midlands) Ltd** is the **largest independent mobile processor of Farm Saved Seed in the country** and we're one of the **preferred** mobile seed processors for groups such as **The AF Group, Woldmarsh, Agricure, Velcourt, Ouse and Cherwell, Agrevis and others.** We consider **quality and service** to be amongst our most important attributes.

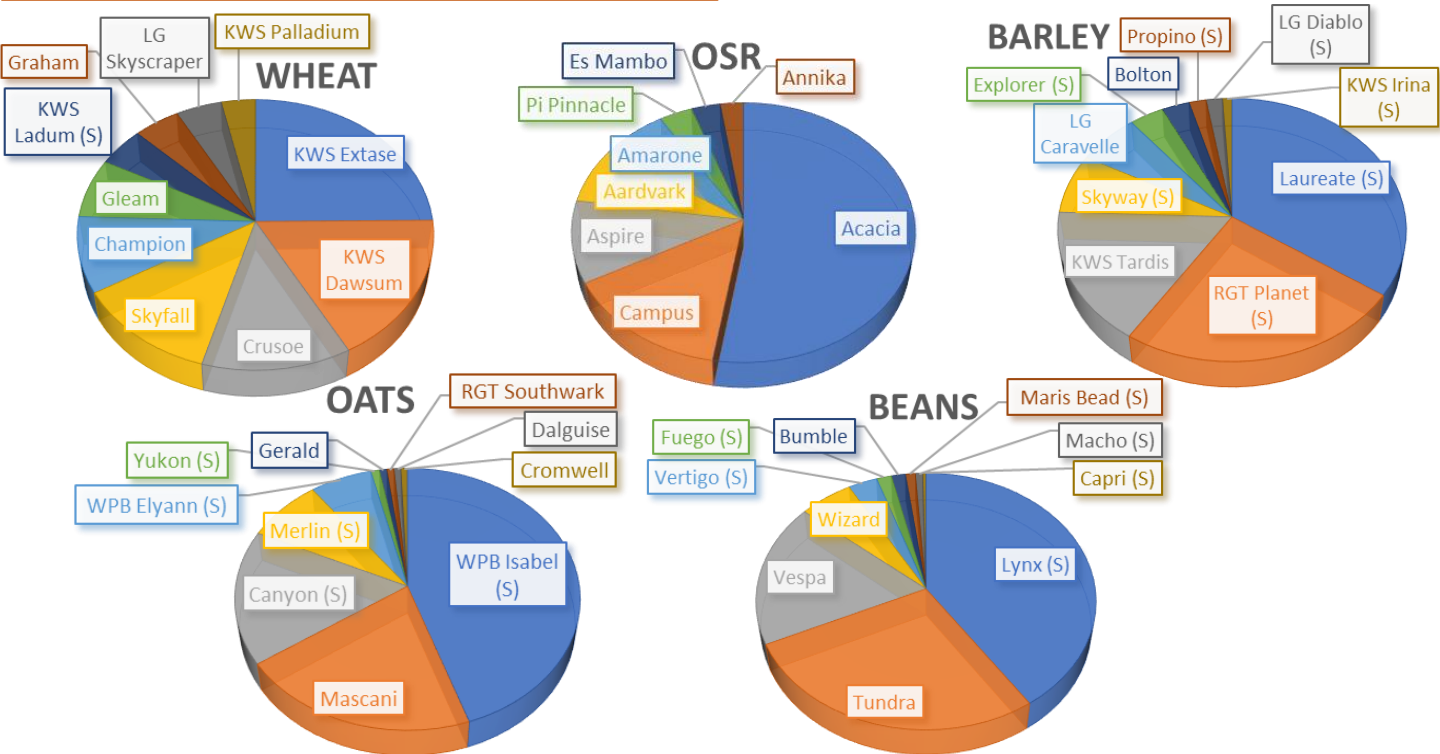
CYO'S DIGITAL JOB SHEETS

If all goes to plan, we're going further down the technology route this season with "digital on farm job sheets" (exciting, isn't it!). This means, gone are the days of our paper job sheets. They'll be replaced by a simple digital form containing all the details of what we've done on your farm. Once complete, a copy will be sent to you via email so you'll have a permanent and convenient record of it. To that end, going forward, we're hoping to send most of our correspondence digitally including invoices, statements and newsletters etc. **To help us reduce our paper demands on the world, please can you let us have your appropriate email addresses if we don't already have them.** Obviously, we'd never pass on your details to a third party or use them inappropriately. If you don't do emails, don't stress about it, we can always send you a paper copy.

WEBSITE, FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

As well as our website www.cyoseeds.com, we're on Facebook and Instagram. Follow us on social media and you'll find lots of interesting and relevant information regarding all aspects of mobile seed processing. We post regular updates regarding the fun and games related to being involved with Farm Saved Seed and more. Please like and follow us.

VARIETAL POPULARITY CHARTS May 2024 – April 2025



Bank Details: Sort Code 40-32-04 Account No 31568140

We hope you find our newsletters of legitimate interest. Please let us know by email or telephone if you no longer wish to receive our newsletters. (Any information we hold will not be passed on to a third party)