

07/07/2022

UK wheat area to rise slightly for harvest 2022

This year's Planting and Variety Survey provides planted area estimates for the whole of the UK. In previous years, the survey has only captured information for GB.

The UK wheat area for harvest 2022 is set to slightly increase year-on-year. With Autumn weather not posing many sowing challenges to UK planting intentions, it is estimated that 1,807Kha of wheat has been planted for harvest 2022. The increase in wheat area has mainly come at the expense of spring barley.

The 2021/22 marketing year has seen extremely supported global grain markets, which has led to domestic wheat prices reaching record levels. Even before the war started in Ukraine, tightening global supply started the upward support for grain markets.

The total barley area is estimated to be 4% down on the year, with a rise in winter plantings not outweighing a drop in spring barley area. There is an estimated uptick in oilseed rape plantings for harvest 2022, with high prices providing the incentive for farmers to grow this alternative break crop. In some regions the increase in oilseed rape plantings has come at the expense of oats. The total oat area is down year-on-year, but still historically high.

Anthony Speight, AHDB Senior Analyst said "Nationally crop conditions are improved on last year with an expected increase to UK wheat production for harvest 2022. Questions over quality domestically remain, with bread premiums historically high. With a possibility of higher opening stocks and increased production, we could have a larger exportable surplus in the 2022/23 marketing year. If this is the case then it would mean we will have to price competitively for the export market. With the conflict in Ukraine now factored in and acting as a price floor, global markets will need fresh bullish news if prices are going to maintain at the highs seen in recent months. It is paramount that domestic growers mitigate and manage risk amid the price volatility that we will continue to see. Furthermore, with changing global geo-political dynamics and high global inflation, domestic growers are now faced with significantly higher crop input costs. These current higher input costs mean that margins for harvest 2023 will likely be squeezed on crops being planted this autumn and next spring."

The key findings of the survey are:

- In 2022 the **UK wheat area is estimated at 1,807Kha**, 1% up from 2021.
- The total UK barley area for harvest 2022 is estimated at 1,103Kha, down 4% on the year. The **UK spring barley area is estimated at 656Kha**, down 12% year-on-year, while the **winter barley area is estimated to be 10% higher at 447Kha**.
- **The UK oat area is estimated at 183Kha**, 9% down year-on-year.
- **At 336Kha, the UK oilseed rape (OSR) area** is 9% higher than 2021 levels.
- For harvest 2022 **KWS-Extase is the most popular wheat variety** with 14% of the total wheat area. **For barley, Laureate is the most popular variety**, accounting for 32% of the total barley area.

The full AHDB Planting and Variety Survey results are [available to download](#) on the AHDB Survey Results page.

Wheat

The UK wheat area for harvest 2022 is estimated to increase by 1% year-on-year to 1,807Kha.

With Autumn weather relatively benign in 2021, planting intentions remained largely unchanged from the results of the [Early Bird Survey](#) which was published at the end of 2021.

The annual increase in wheat area has been at the expense of spring barley and oats, which are both down on the year.

Regionally there hasn't been any notable large shifts in area. However, the last 12 months of inflated wheat prices has provided area increases in the North East (+19%) and North West (+23%), equating to a total increase of 20.1Kha in these regions. Furthermore, at 80Kha, the wheat area in the North East is the largest area planted to wheat in this region on records going back to 1999.

The wheat area in Yorkshire and Humberside has marginally increased (+0.3%) to 229Kha. Demand in this region, as well as the North East, is likely to be strong in the 2022/23 marketing year, with both UK bio-ethanol plants expected to be fully operational.

The wheat area in the East Midlands and South East is expected to be down slightly by 2% and 3% respectively. However, the increase in area in the Eastern region (+3%) offsets these declines.

In terms of varieties, estimated areas for Group 1 and 2 varieties account for 42% of the 2022 UK wheat area.

KWS-Extase is the most popular variety at 14% of total area. However, Gleam is only slightly behind at 11% of total area.

Barley

With a decrease in spring barley area for 2022 (-89Kha), outweighing an increase in winter barley area (+42Kha), the total UK barley area is estimated to be down 4% year-on-year at 1,103Kha.

Overall, 59% of the total UK barley area is malting barley varieties, with full approval from the Institute of Brewing & Distilling.

Laureate is the most popular variety and accounts for 32% of total area, while RGT-Planet is second accounting for 11% of total area.

Winter barley

The overall winter barley area for 2022 has increased by 10% year-on-year to 447Kha. All area in the UK (except North East (-8%), South West (-8%) & NI (-3%)) has recorded an increase in area for 2022.

The largest area increase is in the Eastern region with an increase of 13.4Kha year-on-year. Other larger area increases have been noted in East Midlands (+20%) and West Midlands (+32%).

Spring Barley

The spring barley area is recorded at 656Kha, down 12% on the year and is the lowest spring barley area in the UK since 2014. The reduction in spring barley is due to UK growers increasing their area in winter cereals.

Every single region in the UK has recorded a drop in spring barley area for harvest 2022. With the most sizable area reductions in Yorkshire and Humberside (-35%), Eastern (-19%) and West Midlands

(-49%). The decline in these regions combined equates to 59Kha of the total 89Kha area reduction in the UK.

Oats

The area for oats in the UK is estimated at 183Kha, down 9% year-on-year. After the last two years of sizeable areas, the oat area has contracted back down to levels recorded in 2019 (182Kha). However, this remains historically high.

Sizable reductions are estimated in Yorkshire and Humberside (-36%) and the East Midlands (-21%), equating to 10.3Kha of the total 17.1Kha year-on-year reduction in the total UK area.

The fall in oat area comes as some growers turn back to sowing OSR for harvest 2022, as increased prices offer the incentive to grow.

Oilseed rape

The area of OSR is estimated at 336Kha, up 9% year-on-year. With an inflated OSR market over the last 12 months, growers have had the incentive to sow this break crop, with reduced yields potentially being offset by higher prices.

The area estimated for harvest 2022 is down from the 359Kha estimated in the [Early Bird Survey](#), indicating a possible crop-loss of c.6%, since the end of 2021.

The most notable increases are estimated in Yorkshire and Humberside (+29%) and the East Midlands (+20%). The increase in these regions combined equates to 23Kha of the 28Kha overall area increase in the UK.

Additional Information

- The survey had 911 valid responses. Growers were asked to submit intended harvest areas and the area harvested last year. Data for this survey was collected during the months of April, May and June 2022.
- Due to a low response rate, West Midlands and Wales have been combined for oats and oilseed rape crops.
- Percentage changes¹⁾ are based on comparisons to the Defra 2021 June Survey of Agriculture. Please note, that for oilseed rape²⁾ Defra only produce winter crop areas for the English regions. Therefore, to enable a consistent comparison with Scottish results, the English spring oilseed rape area from harvest 2021 has been apportioned in the same ratio as the winter crops and included in the regional totals for harvest 2022.
- Regional breakdowns are based on the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) regions. North Scotland consists of the Highlands & Islands and the North East regions. South Scotland consist of Southern, Eastern and West Central regions.
- Please note that totals may not agree due to rounding.

AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds Planting Survey Results 2022

Source: AHDB, Defra, Scottish Government

Units: '000 hectares

Last updated: 07/07/2022

Region	Wheat			Spring barley			Winter barley			Total barley		
	Final 2021 ¹⁾	Estimate 2022	% change on 2021	Final 2021 ¹⁾	Estimate 2022	% change on 2021	Final 2021 ¹⁾	Estimate 2022	% change on 2021	Final 2021 ¹⁾	Estimate 2022	% change on 2021
North East	68	80	19	17	12	-26	25	23	-8	42	36	-15
North West	32	39	23	22	15	-31	14	16	13	36	31	-14
Yorks and Humber	228	229	0	67	44	-35	62	66	7	129	110	-15
East Mids	318	313	-2	87	85	-2	42	50	20	129	136	5
Eastern	478	494	3	104	84	-19	90	104	15	194	188	-3
South East	219	211	-3	67	67	-1	37	43	17	104	110	6
South West	156	150	-4	75	71	-6	46	43	-8	121	113	-7
West Mids	156	153	-2	32	16	-49	29	39	32	61	55	-10
Wales	23	28	21	12	8	-30	8	10	14	21	18	-12
North Scot	19	22	13	136	131	-3	17	19	9	153	150	-2
South Scot	85	79	-8	113	111	-2	26	28	7	140	139	-0
England & Wales	1,678	1,698	1	483	403	-17	354	393	11	837	796	-5
Scotland	105	100	-4	249	243	-3	43	47	8	292	289	-1
Northern Ireland	8	8	10	13	10	-22	8	8	-3	21	18	-14
GB	1,783	1,798	1	732	646	-12	397	440	11	1,129	1,085	-4
UK	1,790	1,807	1	745	656	-12	405	447	10	1,150	1,103	-4

Region	Oats			Total cereals			Oilseed rape ²⁾			Total cereals & oilseed rape		
	Final 2021 ¹⁾	Estimate 2022	% change on 2021	Final 2021 ¹⁾	Estimate 2022	% change on 2021	Final 2021 ¹⁾	Estimate 2022	% change on 2021	Final 2021 ¹⁾	Estimate 2022	% change on 2021
North East	11	9	-20	121	125	4	16	16	2	137	141	3
North West	6	6	2	74	76	3	3	4	16	77	80	4
Yorks and Humber	14	9	-36	372	348	-6	42	55	29	414	403	-3
East Mids	24	19	-21	471	468	-1	53	63	20	524	531	1
Eastern	25	26	3	697	708	2	67	62	-7	764	771	1
South East	29	28	-4	352	349	-1	37	37	-0	389	386	-1
South West	26	27	2	303	290	-4	22	30	36	326	320	-2
West Mids and Wales*	27	24	-12	289	278	-4	33	36	9	322	314	-2
North Scot	11	11	-1	183	182	-0	13	13	-1	195	195	-0
South Scot	23	21	-8	248	239	-4	21	19	-7	269	258	-4
England & Wales	164	148	-9	2,679	2,642	-1	273	303	11	2,952	2,945	-0
Scotland	34	32	-6	430	422	-2	33	32	-5	464	453	-2
Northern Ireland	2	2	20	30	29	-6	1	1	-30	31	29	-7
GB	198	180	-9	3,109	3,064	-1	307	335	9	3,416	3,399	-1
UK	200	183	-9	3,140	3,092	-2	307	336	9	3,447	3,428	-1

AHDB wheat variety survey results 2022

Source: AHDB

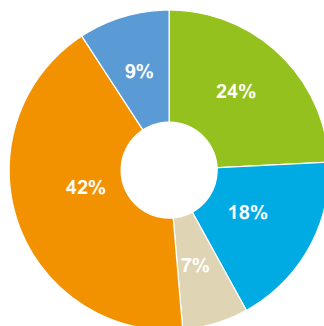
Units: % and '000 hectares

Last updated: 07/07/2022

Region	UK flour groups by region (%)							Planting survey wheat area estimate	UK flour groups by region ('000 hectares)						
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 4 soft	Group 4 hard	Other		Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 4 soft	Group 4 hard	Other
North East	11%	21%	19%	41%	14%	27%	9%	80	9	17	15	33	11	22	7
North West	*	28%	*	55%	*	*	13%	39	*	11	*	21	*	*	5
Yorks and Humber	10%	10%	6%	56%	14%	43%	18%	229	22	23	13	129	31	98	41
East Mids	20%	20%	6%	43%	10%	33%	11%	313	64	63	18	134	32	102	34
Eastern	29%	15%	11%	38%	9%	29%	7%	494	145	74	52	188	44	144	34
South East	55%	20%	3%	19%	5%	14%	3%	211	116	42	6	40	11	29	7
South West	17%	31%	*	43%	3%	40%	*	150	25	46	*	64	4	60	*
West Mids	*	19%	*	40%	*	*	6%	153	*	28	*	61	*	*	9
Wales	*	*	*	69%	*	*	*	28	*	*	*	20	*	*	*
North Scot	*	*	*	69%	51%	18%	22%	22	*	*	*	15	11	4	5
South Scot	*	10%	15%	67%	63%	5%	*	79	*	8	12	53	50	4	*
Northern Ireland	*	33%	*	43%	*	*	*	8	*	3	*	4	*	*	*
GB	*	18%	*	42%	*	*	*	1,798	*	319	*	758	*	*	*
UK	24%	18%	7%	42%	11%	31%	9%	1,807	437	321	120	762	200	562	166

UK wheat crop by UK flour group

■ Group 1 ■ Group 2 ■ Group 3 ■ Group 4 ■ Other



UK wheat varieties as a percentage of surveyed area

UK planting survey wheat area estimate: 1,807 Kha

Variety	UK flour group	% of total
KWS-Extase	2	14%
Gleam	4H	11%
Skyfall	1	10%
LG Skyscraper	4S	9%
Graham	4H	7%
Crusoe	1	6%
KWS-Zyatt	1	6%
Other**		37%

Notes

The wheat variety survey area was approximately 64,000 hectares which represents 4% of the total 2022 area estimate.

Varieties are categorised as per the AHDB Recommended List 2021/22. Other is the uncategorised varieties from the same guide.

Breakdown at regional levels are based on smaller sample sizes than at the UK level and are therefore subject to more uncertainty.

**Other varieties each make up less than 5% of the surveyed area.

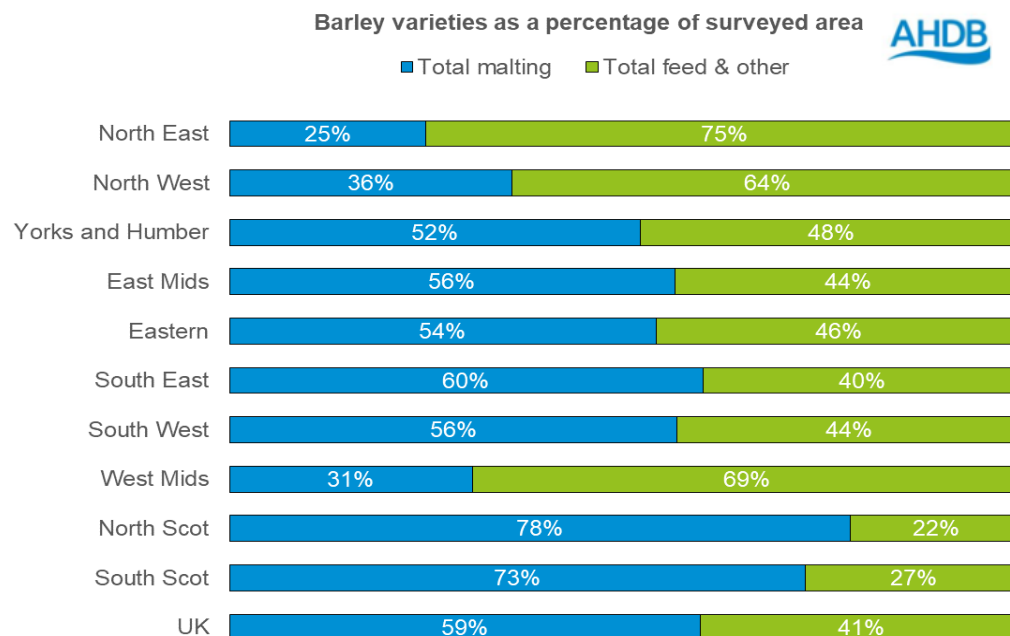
Totals may not agree due to rounding.

AHDB barley variety survey results 2022

Source: AHDB

Units: %

Last updated: 07/07/2022



Barley varieties as a percentage of surveyed area

UK planting survey barley area estimate: 1,103 Kha

Variety	% of total
Laureate	32%
RGT-Planet	11%
LG Diablo	9%
SY Kingsbarn	5%
Other*	43%

Notes

The barley variety survey area was approximately 40,000 hectares which represents 4% of the total 2022 area estimate.

Malting: Varieties with full approval only on the Institute of Brewing and Distilling Approved List for harvest 2022.

Breakdown at regional levels are based on smaller sample sizes than at the UK level and are therefore subject to more uncertainty.

Northern Ireland and Wales have been removed from the regional breakdown as they do not meet the thresholds for publication.

*Other varieties each make up less than 5% of the surveyed area.

Totals may not agree due to rounding.

AHDB oat variety survey results 2022

Source: AHDB

Units: %

Last updated: 07/07/2022

Oat varieties as a percentage of surveyed area

UK planting survey oat area estimate: 183 Kha

Variety	% of total
Mascani	39%
Canyon	17%
WPB Isabel	9%
Other*	36%

Notes

The oat variety survey area was approximately 7,000 hectares which represents 4% of the total area estimate.

*Other varieties each make up less than 5% of the surveyed area or do not meet the thresholds for publication.

AHDB oilseed rape variety survey results 2022

Source: AHDB

Units: %

Last updated: 07/07/2022

OSR varieties as a percentage of surveyed area

UK planting survey OSR area estimate: 336 Kha

Variety	% of total
Aurelia	16%
Acacia	10%
Aspire	8%
Ambassador	7%
Campus	5%
Other	53%

Notes

The OSR variety survey area was approximately 12,000 hectares which represents 4% of the total 2022 area estimate.

*Other varieties each make up less than 5% of the surveyed area.

AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds Planting Survey: Wheat and Oat planting estimates by crop type

Source: AHDB

Units: %

Last updated: 07/07/2022

Region: Great Britain

% area estimate of plantings				
Year	Spring wheat	Winter wheat	Spring oats	Winter oats
2019	*	*	57%	43%
2020	*	*	72%	28%
2021	8%	92%	66%	34%
2022	3%	97%	50%	50%