

A missed drilling window can cost 10% of yield

Being able to drill sugar beet as early as conditions allow can make a difference of 10% or more to the eventual yield – a much greater difference than that between varieties on the Recommended List.

A bolting resistant variety can be drilled as soon as the seed bed and conditions come right. If the variety is not suitable, delay is unavoidable, weather conditions may change, and the benefit of early drilling can be lost.

Hilleshog varieties offer some of the best bolting resistance available: Saracen and Trinita among the conventional varieties; Sentinel - the clear leader where rhizomania resistance or nematode tolerance is required.

Careful variety selection gives the best chance of profitable beet.



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The right sugar beet can give an extra tonne of wheat

Aimanta is an early-maturing Rhizomania-resistant sugar beet that will give profitable yields from crops lifted at the beginning of the campaign. This gives growers the opportunity to get their fields into peak condition for drilling following cereal crops.

There are Rhizomania-resistant varieties on the Recommended List that offer a theoretically bigger yield by a few percentage points. However, many growers, particularly on heavy land, cannot afford to compromise the following cereal crop.

When you consider that correct seed bed preparation and planting in the optimum drilling window can improve wheat yields by at least a tonne per hectare, you'll see why many growers will like the early maturity of Aimanta.

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Raising yields on nematode infected soils

Sentinel is a new Hilleshog sugar beet variety offering double protection against both Beet Cyst Nematode and Rhizomania, with yields more than 25% higher than susceptible varieties under average infected field conditions.

While the first double-tolerant variety suffered from a significant “yield drag” under uninfected conditions, Sentinel delivers Adjusted tonnes within 1% of the mean of the Fully Recommended varieties in uninfected fields. And, in extensive UK trials on nematode infested fields in recent years, Sentinel has demonstrated yield increases of 10 – 85% compared to non-tolerant varieties.

What is more, Sentinel also has excellent resistance to bolting, allowing early drilling, and has the improved Hilleshog root shape for easier harvesting and lower dirt and crown tares.

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