



**Saaten  
Union UK**

**Hybrid Rye**

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# Saaten Union – Hybrid Winter Rye

- Breeder HYBRO Saatzucht GmbH & Co.KG – A subsidiary of Saaten Union.
- Hybro have been breeding Rye in Germany since 1978 and have been producing hybrids since the early 2000's.
- Hybrid Rye is grown across Europe.
- Saaten Union UK enter new material into the UK National List which if performance is good enough they then enter the AHDB descriptive list (DL).

# Hybrid Rye – Growing advice

- Hybrid Rye typically suits lighter soils where nutrients and moisture are limiting factors.
- Hybrid Rye will out perform a conventional rye in these situations. (see table)

Year	Hybrid t/ha	Conventional t/ha
2018	8.67	7.1
2019	10.9	9.5
2020	9.9	9.0
<b>3 year average</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>8.5</b>

- *Table showing Average Hybrid / Conventional Rye yields on light land over the last 3 years from Saaten Union Trials.*
- Hybrid Rye also suits a second cereal position as its vigour and speed of development means that take-all is not seen in the crop. It is not however a take-all break.

# Hybrid Rye – Growing advice, continued

## ■ **Planting**

- Hybrid Rye is a vigorous crop but is sensitive at emergence.
- Planting should take place from mid-late September through until the end of October. See separate table for seed rates.
- It should be planted into a good seed bed to aid even emergence.

## ■ **Establishment and vigour**

- Once emerged the crop will tiller vigorously. Giving good quick cover in the autumn.
- After winter again the crop will grow away very quickly, Saaten Union early vigour scores show Hybrid Rye starting to move through growth stages by early February.
- Depending on area in the UK, again ear emergence is early with GS55 (Mid ear emergence) seen in the first 10 days of May.

## ■ **Late season**

- The crop will continue to put on height during and after ear emergence but the good straw characteristics keep it standing.
- The crop will senesce naturally, typically this will be at the very end of July through to early August again depending on the area.

# Seed Rates – Hybrid Rye

	Mid Sept	Late Sept	Mid Oct	Late Oct
Seeds / M <sup>2</sup>	180 - 220	230 - 260	280 - 320	330 – 350
Kg/ha	85 -102	107- 121	130 - 150	155 - 170

Above seed rates working on a typical TGW 40 and germination of 95%

The above seed rates should be adjusted for sowing conditions. Remembering that Rye does not respond well to poor seedbed conditions.

A Conventional Rye would be sown at 30% higher seed rates.

# Hybrid Rye & Ergot

- Rye / Hybrid rye is susceptible to ergot due to its very open flowering. The ergot spores mimic pollen grains and will attach themselves to non fertilised sites.
- With this in mind it is important to fill all flower sites with pollen as quickly as possible.
- To help achieve this Saaten Union hybrid rye varieties are sold to growers with a 10% mix of a pollinator. The pollinator has been specially selected to start producing pollen just ahead of the main hybrid rye crop (90%). This means that pollen is available immediately when the main crop is flowering.
- The grower can also help reduce instances of ergot.
  - Going back to establishment, it is important to achieve uniform establishment so that the crop remains even throughout the growing season.
  - Avoid running down areas in tramlines etc as back tillers are a good host for ergot (less pollen).
  - Keep the crop healthy ensuring even ear emergence i.e timely applications of fertiliser and fungicide.
- Unfortunately ergot will always be a risk especially when conditions are wet at flowering but the breeders efforts and good husbandry will keep the risk to a minimum.

# Hybrid Rye - Agronomy

- Looking after a crop of hybrid rye is similar to any other cereal, growth stages are the same and correct timings are important.
- The first thing to be aware of is that hybrid rye is early and moves fast. Growth stages will be ahead of winter barley or wheat.

## Herbicides

- A autumn herbicide usually is needed to tackle BLW and grass weed issues, product labels should be checked for the inclusion of winter rye.
- Spring herbicides are not required.

## Fungicide

- 2 main timings T1 @ GS32/33 and T2 GS39 flag leaf fully emerged.
- At these timings mildew and brown rust are the targets so products can be selected accordingly which results in a cost saving from fewer diseases to control.

## Nitrogen

- Again similar to other cereals, depending on levels of N in the soil hybrid rye will require similar amounts of nitrogen to a feed winter barley. Less than a second winter wheat. Typically around 180kg/ha. Timing of this will be early to match the vigorous growth at an early stage.
- As hybrid rye is an effective scavenger its worth checking soil index's for all nutrients after growing rye in the rotation.

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