

WHY GROW WINTER OILSEED RAPE IN 2020?

The most profitable and reliable crop rotation on Irish farms 2016-2018 (as analysed by Teagasc) is one that includes a proportion of winter cereals. This is very valuable information for growers and their agronomists deciding what to drill in 2020/2021. These profits are based on high winter cereal yields and you need a good reliable break crop to set up your farm to drill winter cereals at the best time and get the most from your investment.

Winter oilseed rape is often not drilled as its margin looks low compared to a good wheat or barley crop. On the face of it, this appears correct but how many 4.5 tonne/ac crops of wheat follow wheat or barley? The true benefit of rape needs to be valued correctly and teased out as this table below attempts but we advise each grower to adjust for their own situation.

	WINTER OILSEED RAPE	WINTER WHEAT	WINTER BARLEY	WINTER OATS
Price/tonne	€350	€150	€140	€140
Yield/acre	1.7	4.5	4.0	3.6
Margin €/acre (Teagasc margins 2020)	120	240	200	170
Extra yield in following cereal (value of this benefit)	Yes €80/ac	No	No	Yes €80/ac
Fully utilize organic manures (value of this benefit)	YES €40/ac	No	No	No
Use alternative herbicides to cereals (value of this benefit)	YES €20/ac	No	No	No
Drilling in August	YES	No	No	No
Harvest between winter barley and wheat	YES	No	No	Yes

SEEDTECH WINTER OILSEED RAPE PORTFOLIO 2020

ANASTASIA, **AQUILA** and **DARIOT** are excellent and reliable varieties of winter oilseed rape for 2020 drilling. These are fully recommended by the Irish Department of Agriculture trials and have performed very well on farm.

A new technology that many winter cereal growers might be interested in is Clearfield oilseed rape. These are varieties of oilseed rape that you can apply a special herbicide to called Cleranda. This herbicide will control charlock, runch and volunteer rape from previous crops. **PLURAX CL** and **PHOENIX CL** are Clearfield winter oilseed rape varieties that are very suited to growing in Ireland as they have excellent stem stiffness and harvest characteristics.