



This is the first agronomic bulletin for Winter linseed grown for harvest 2020. Bulletins are issued by Premium Crops throughout the growing year, from drilling right through to combining. Bulletins are designed to aid agronomists and growers in the decision making process of growing Winter Linseed, thus making it as easy and successful as possible.

### Seed Deliveries

Seed deliveries are underway, **DO NOT SOW SEED UNTIL SPECIFIED TIME BELOW**

### Crop Establishment

Start clean- make sure that any volunteers or weeds are killed off before planting by spraying with glyphosate (e.g. Round-up). Ensure seedbeds are not compacted.

### Fertiliser

*Nitrogen:* Winter Linseed **does not** usually benefit from Autumn applied nitrogen. Nitrogen management will be dealt with in later bulletins in the Spring.

*P & K:* Peak demand for P&K is in the Spring. For P&K indices of less than 2, an application will be required in the Autumn to aid establishment. These can be applied flexibly to fit in with usual farm fertiliser policy. Ensure the value for all organic manure is accounted for in the P & K calculations. For a 3.0 tonne/ha crop, Winter Linseed needs the following total P & K;

Soil Index	P (kg/ha)	K (kg/ha)	Timing
0	100	90	Split Autumn & Spring
1	100	65	
2	50	40	Anytime
3+	0	0	

*Magnesium:* Ensure the soil is maintained at Index 1.

*Zinc:* encourages rooting and branching in Winter linseed, is often applied with SU herbicides to reduce crop stress.

### Drilling Date

Winter Linseed requires planting into warm, moist soil.

Sowing date should sufficiently early to allow good establishment (7.5cm tall crop) before winter.

Generally, sow from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September to:

To 15th September	North
To 25th September	Midlands
To end September	South

Conditions are far more important than sowing date. Later sowing allows enhanced stale seedbed usage.

**Cultivation**

Winter Linseed likes a firm, well consolidated seedbed and so is particularly suited to min-till/direct drill situations.



Figure 1 Above—Less suitable seedbeds: LHS Cloddy seedbed and RHS excess straw



Figure 2 Idea seed bed conditions

**Top Tip**  
 Drill Winter linseed with a drill suitable for wheat drilling.

**Sowing Depth**

Sowing 2.0-3.0 cm deep (of settled soil) – depth is important for herbicide safety. Rolling after sowing provides ideal seed/soil contact, rapid emergence and provides the best surface for herbicide use. On light soils especially, the rolling needs to be substantial to minimise risk of frost lift.

**Seed Rate**

The optimum seeding rate for Winter Linseed is 450seeds/m<sup>2</sup>, for the correct sowing rate please follow the following guide:

Variety	1/2 ha Pack size	Est TSW	Seeding Rate
Alpaga	13.5kg to 15.5kg	5.5 to 7g	27 to 31kg/ha
Sideral	16.5 kg	7g	33 Kg/ha
Volga	16.5 kg	7.2g	33 kg/ha

**Top Tip**  
 Winter linseed varieties produce more side branches than Spring linseed varieties. By increasing the seeding rate, the canopy can become overcrowded and linseed plants will compete with each other for resources, thus producing thinner stalks and dramatically increasing the risk of lodging.

**PRE-EMERGENCE WEED CONTROL**

Pre-emergence herbicide is required as the first step in a sequenced weed control programme.

**Blackgrass Situations- Pre-Emergence**

*Optimise the use of Avadex*

Applied 'at planting' Avadex can give 80% Blackgrass control and excellent weed sensitisation.

Applied 1 week after planting, this level of control drops to 50% with reduced sensitisation-it is hence essential to apply Avadex synchronously with planting.

Product	Rate	Water volume	Notes
Avadex 5G	15kg/ha	-	Apply in front of drill which will then incorporate granules. Post planting. Post planting application is possible, but needs moisture. Should be within 24 hours maximum of planting (but the closer the better).
Avadex Factor	3.6l/ha	200-300lt/ha	Pre-crop emergence Best onto a rolled seedbed Requires moisture

*Top Tip : In Blackgrass situations, apply Avadex first and then follow it with Callisto. Trials have shown an improvement in the efficacy of Avadex by >40% against blackgrass.*

If contractors are being used (and timeliness of application is difficult) or if conditions are dry, it may be better to have the granules applied up to a week before planting and harrow in; the crop can then be drilled through the herbicide and rolled.

Avadex Excel 15g will give good control of Meadow Grass and some ABLW (Charlock, Chickweed, Cleaver, Fumitory, Mayweed, Pansy and Poppy).

**Annual Broad Leaf Weeds**

The following gives excellent pre-emergence weed control of most weeds:

Product	Rate	Notes
Callisto	0.75l/ha	Pre crop emergence

**Note:** Using Callisto should mean other ABLW can be left until spring (and reduces the need to use an Autumn applied SU), giving a full range of products to choose from.

**Always read the label before using pesticides. Herbicide products in this bulletin are approved under Extension of use. Usage under Extension of use is entirely at the grower's risk.**

**CONTACTS**

Our agronomists Hannah Foxall and Lorna Evans are happy to take your calls on questions or queries you might have.

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