



Harvesting

With hot conditions linseed crops are turning quickly, with many crops having been desiccated. Winter linseed harvests at a similar time to Winter Rape - sometimes before, other times after, depending on location and the year.

When to Harvest

Typically, crops should be ready for harvest 5 – 10 days after the application of Diquat or 10 – 14 days after the application of Glyphosate:

- The top half of the stem will be brown and dead, although the lower half is still likely to be yellowy/green.
- Capsules will be 'parchment' colour.
- Seeds will be dark brown and will easily rub out from the capsules.
- Moisture content of the seed will be 7 – 11% (preferably 9%).
- When the Winter Linseed stem is at the stage shown in the picture, the fibres (which are arranged in bundles on the outside of the stem) are tightly 'glued' to the inner woody core, making the straw easy to cut.
- As the stem ages, this 'glue' gradually breaks down – a natural process known as retting. This allows the fibres to separate from the stem easily.

⇒ This means that:

- The stem becomes more difficult to cut
- It is more likely to wrap in the combine
- The straw is less likely to chop

Cut your linseed at the first opportunity

NEVER EVER leave Winter Linseed until after you have finished your Wheat harvest.



Linseed stem with fibre peeled back, exposing the inner woody core



Combines will cut green Linseed straw provided the knife and fingers are in good condition.

- Knife must be sharp (plain or serrated) and sit tight to the fingers
- Fingers need to have good square edges
- Use seed maturity/moisture content as your combining guide.
- Linseed cuts more easily nearer the ground (see Combine Operator Instructions at www.premiumcrops.com, then navigate to bulletins within the Winter Linseed heading).
- Do not miss any opportunity to combine Linseed.
- Your combine is the best judge of whether to harvest Linseed!
- You will often find with Linseed that one day harvesting will not 'go', but the next day for no apparent reason you will fly through the crop.

Combine Settings

Outline instructions can be found at www.premiumcrops.com, then navigate to bulletins within the Winter Linseed heading.

Market Standards

Normal trading standards for Linseed are:

- Moisture – basis 9%, maximum 10% (**there is no minimum moisture content**)
- Admixture – basis 2%, maximum 4%
- Oil - minimum 38%
- ALA - 54% minimum
- Mite free
- Clover weevil free

Linseed Straw Disposal

There are several options for Linseed straw disposal:

Chopping - Winter Linseed straw is much more likely to chop successfully than Spring Linseed. The time of year and conditions are much more conducive to chopping and the combine chopper blades are often newer at this stage of the season.

Problems can arise when the straw is weathered, which results in a fluffy material which can hinder subsequent min-till operations. Our advice is to disengage the chopper if you are not obtaining a 'clean chop'.

Baling - Some growers even use Linseed straw for sugar beet clamps or for bedding,.

Burning - Burning is the simplest and most widely used method of straw disposal. Linseed straw is exempt from the burning ban and burns quickly without smoke or smuts. Either push the straw into a line across the centre of the field or round bale without strings.

Burning must be carried out in accordance with the appropriate legislation (The Crop Residues (Burning) Regulations 1993).

Drying and Storage

- Most Winter Linseed will be harvested dry.
- Damp Linseed will deteriorate rapidly above 11% moisture.
- If drying: - maximum temperature should not exceed 65°C.
 - maximum 1 metre depth for on-floor drying, because Linseed has a very high resistance to air-flow.
 - be careful when storing/drying damp Linseed in a bin system because of this airflow resistance and because wet Linseed can 'set'. If possible rotate from one bin to another.
 - take down to 8% moisture, to allow for variations in meter readings.
- If harvesting in hot conditions, ensure that stored linseed is cooled to <20°C (15°C or below ideally) when cooler weather conditions allow. This will help prevent mite infestations.
- In some years, clover weevils are harvested with the Linseed. Whilst non-injurious to the stored crop, end-users may reject if present. The weevil will dissipate over a few weeks.
- Monitor stored linseed regularly for moisture and temperature increases.
- If Linseed is dry and cool (<8.5% moisture and <15°C), it will store quite happily for several months.
- Premium Crops can offer Linseed growers comprehensive contract cleaning, drying and storage services (costs on request).

Samples

- Premium Crops will not move any crops without having received a sample – **this is a contractual requirement.**
- Please send a sample of your crop (approximately 0.5 – 0.75 kg):
 - * Put the sample in the polythene sample bag
 - * Complete your trading name and estimated tonnage on the bag
 - * Put into the pre-addressed survivor envelope provided and post it (please make sure you get the parcel weighed at the Post Office to ensure the correct postage is paid)

We will check the sample, send you an analysis report and arrange transport within your movement period .

Winter linseed for 2020

If you have not yet placed your order for the coming season please let us know your requirement as soon as you are able. The start of the optimum sowing period is less than 6 weeks away!

All products used under EAMU are entirely at grower's own risk.

Always read the label before using pesticides. Use pesticides safely.

Contacts

If in doubt, consult your agronomist on any of the points. Our agronomists Hannah Foxall and Lorna Evans are also happy to take your calls on questions or queries you might have.

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