

Husbandry guidelines

Belepi

Winter wheat

October - December drilling



agrovista
seeds

Belepi is UK bred by
Blackman Agriculture Ltd

Parentage is
Robigus x Samoa



Key benefits to wheat growers

- Extremely early to harvest
- Very wide sowing window – October through to end of March
- Very vigorous in spring – outcompeting blackgrass
- Yield equivalent to Group 3 and 4 wheats
- Orange wheat blossom midge resistant
- Good second wheat choice
- Excellent early entry for oilseed rape
- Ideal to follow potatoes, root crops, cover crops, vegetables and maize

Grain quality

Belepi produces a large, clean ear of soft endosperm wheat suitable for the feed market. It has a good specific weight and high Hagberg Falling Number which may attract a premium. Belepi has given medium distilling results and has good sprouting resistance.

Yield competitive

In a range of growing conditions yields have been competitive with other feed wheats, yielding from well over 11t/ha to an average of 9t/ha, with drilling dates ranging from early October to mid-March.

Disease resistance and fungicide

Belepi has a sound resistance package to the main foliar diseases, with particular resistance to Septoria tritici and mildew. Rust diseases and eyespot need monitoring as part of a comprehensive protection programme.

Belepi is susceptible to yellow rust, so appropriate early prevention is recommended for effective control. Belepi has high resistance to fusarium ear blight.

Note during spring / summer development Belepi can often be 10 days to a full growth stage ahead of other varieties drilled at the same time. Fungicide timings need to be in line with this advanced state to offer maximum benefit to plant health.

Disease	Breeder's resistance ratings
Mildew	7
Yellow rust	5
Brown rust	6
Septoria tritici	6.5
Eyespot	4
Fusarium	7
OWBM	R
Lodging with PGR	7
Lodging without PGR	6
Sprouting resistance	7

Position in rotation

Belepi is botanically a winter wheat with a minimal vernalisation requirement - as such it should not be drilled before October. It is a good second wheat choice, an excellent entry for oilseed rape and cover crops and an ideal variety to follow potatoes, roots, vegetables and maize.

Choice of site

Belepi is equally suited to light or heavy ground. The wide sowing window ensures that growers can drill when the seedbed is in its best condition for moisture, pest control and trash burial.

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Growing Belepi for maximum results

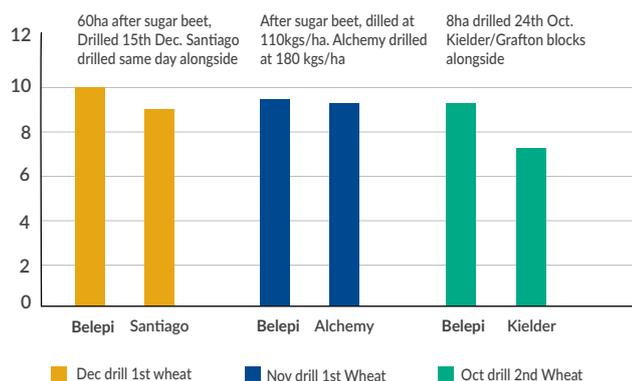
Sowing data and seed rate

Belepi has a wide sowing window from October through to end March, allowing time to achieve a good seedbed following root crops where soil structure has been compromised.

From 1st of October through to mid-November, growers should aim to drill between 285-300 seeds/m² adjusting for soil type, drilling depth, soil nitrogen supply, previous crop, non-inversion cultivation and seedbed trash levels. When drilling from mid-November through to year end, seed rates should be increased ideally to between 335- 350 seeds/m² depending on field situation (maximum 400 seeds/m²). Use the correct seed treatment to counter early disease and pest pressure. Where establishment is expected to be less than 50% prior to drilling, then correcting the cause ought to be the principal concern.

On-farm performance

Drilling date and position - variety comparison 2014 (t/ha)



Straw strength

Belepi is of medium height with straw strength similar to KWS Santiago (7). Preference is not to use Moddus on Belepi as it has a tendency to shorten the main stem but not later developing tillers. If Moddus is used, no more than 0.1 to 0.2 litres per hectare ought to be applied.

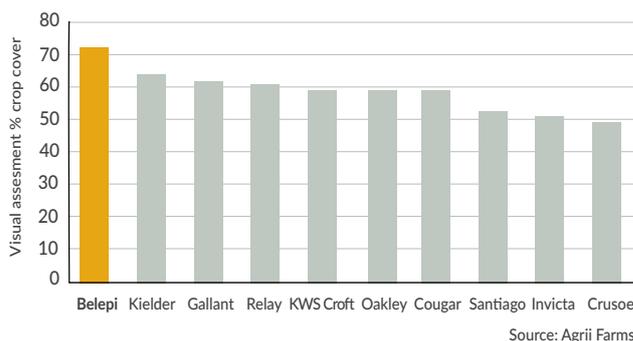
Harvest timing

Belepi can be very early to harvest when drilled October to November - not dissimilar to Soissons. Late winter and early spring drilled Belepi is likely to mature at the same time as other wheats drilled one month earlier.

Blackgrass suppression

The wide sowing window offered by Belepi provides the opportunity to employ practical blackgrass control methods prior to drilling. Belepi has a prostrate winter growth habit but is relatively dormant until the start of stem extension in late March. At this time it produces wide lax leaves and develops much faster than long season winter wheat. The leafiness and speed of development outcompetes weeds including blackgrass. Note that being winter dormant, increased seed rates will not aid blackgrass suppression. It is Belepi's competitiveness in April - growing faster and leafier - that gives the variety its excellent weed covering capability.

Blackgrass trial



Herbicide management

Herbicides approved for use on winter wheat may be used on Belepi.

Fertiliser requirements and timing

Determine N requirements of the crop using RB209. Belepi has the capability of out-yielding recognised feed wheat varieties such as KWS Santiago and should be managed accordingly. Medium to high SNS levels and seedbed or very early spring applied nitrogen will promote leaf development at the expense of ears and will lead to increased lodging risk. Where high N residues are known to be present, it is prudent to reduce standard seeding rates by at least 10%. Early spring applications are best avoided except on second wheat, non-inversion or where there are high trash residues when an application in March as part of the 200 kgs/ha ammonium sulphate application (around 40kgs/ha N) may be appropriate and will give adequate Sulphur for full yield potential. Do not starve the crop. The main application should be split between GS 31 and GS 37.



For more information

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