

mindful

winter wheat



Agrovista
exclusive

As we move into our 4th season with Mindful group 4 hard we have experienced the capability of a very versatile variety.

Mindful can be drilled early and it can be drilled late. It seems to have the ability to scavenge for nutrients in difficult conditions. Its disease resistance holds true despite being a Costello cross, it did not suffer like many others with the YR15 mutation. Its relatively tall straw seems more of a help than a hinderance in dry conditions. Its high specific weight brings consistency and reliability. Season 2025 was very challenging for many varieties.

The intense heat and lack of water in southern England meant pesticide applications risked over-stressing the varieties and negatively affecting crop development. The AgX site at Haddenham, Cambridgeshire, illustrated this. Mindful was the highest yielding hard feed both treated and untreated.

Its scavenging ability (from its Dutch parent Evolution), coupled with longer straw, may well have helped the variety not just cope with the intense heat and very low moisture levels but thrive too while others struggled. The YR15 mutation also took its toll on untreated plots devastating competitor varieties and yet Mindful shrugged off the challenge with minimal impact and continues to do so through 2026.

Both KWS Extase and Mindful have an ability to build green leaf area through the autumn and winter months to maximise photosynthesis capability once spring arrives, temperatures warm and early nitrogen boosts development further.

Yield (t/ha at 15% moisture content)
Drilled 11 November 24 deep silt

AgX

Variety	Type	Untreated t/ha	Treated t/ha	Increase t/ha
KWS EXTASE	Group 2	11.41	12.69	+ 1.28
MINDFUL	Group 4H	12.02	12.50	+ 0.48
LG SKYSCRAPER	Group 4S	12.65	12.44	-
CHAMPION	Group 4H	7.46	11.99	+ 4.53
LG BEOWULF	Group 4H	9.31	11.98	+ 2.67
KWS DAWSUM	Group 4H	10.18	11.95	+ 1.77

SOURCE: Harvest 25 AgX Haddenham

Drilled 11 November 2024

AgX

Assessment dates	% ground cover			
	25/11/2024	17/12/2024	30/01/2025	17/02/2025
CHAMPION	0.25	8.39	16.74	23.51
MINDFUL	2	9.45	16.70	22.85
KWS EXTASE	0	8.18	16.25	22.00
KWS VIBE	0.25	7.60	15.73	21.70
SY CHEER	1.25	9.04	15.94	21.32
KWS DAWSUM	0.5	6.99	13.46	17.13
RGT HEXTON	0	5.11	11.97	14.02

SOURCE: Harvest 25 AgX Haddenham

Standing ability

Mindful has a straw length marginally shorter than Skyscraper and a strength equal to it when treated with PGR. In highly fertile situations and when drilled early a good PGR programme is recommended. That said we have not had problems keeping the variety standing and in direct comparison with other feed types it has held its own in commercial seed field conditions against varieties like KWS Dawsum.

Grown for seed in 2022, Mindful achieved 12 tonnes per hectare in Suffolk following sugar beet fallow, compared with 1st wheat Dawsum at 11.1 tonnes per hectare.

“The crop looked good from the start, growing away well in the autumn, and picking up again strongly in the spring. We grew 26ha of Dawsum next door after early lifted sugar beet, and both varieties looked similar through the season. Mindful stood very well. We didn’t experience any weakness at all, albeit it was a dry season, but it is not a tall wheat which is a good sign” said Giles Western, Seed Grower 2022 harvest, Brundish, Suffolk.

Further north in Bedale, North Yorkshire, seed grower Mark Sampson also grew Mindful alongside KWS Dawsum and RGT Bairstow. Drilled next door to each other following potatoes, KWS Dawsum achieved 11.84 tonnes per hectare with a specific weight of 82.95kg/hl. Mindful yielded on par at 12 tonnes per hectare with specific weight at 81kg/ha. RGT Bairstow achieved 10.62t/ha.

“It stood extremely well, better than Dawsum on equivalent adjacent land, and was easy to combine” said Mark Sampson

Sample quality

Mindful is a Costello cross and has most certainly picked up the high specific weight of this popular variety.

“Last year Mindful did just shy of 3.5t/acre (8.5-8.6t/ha) with a lovely solid ear (as in rectangular and bold with 78.5ish bushel weight) and displayed no real signs of disease (septoria unsurprisingly due to dryness, but no chasing yellow rust (unlike nearly all other varieties))!” commented Colin Chappell who produced one of our high grade seed crops harvest 2025.

High specific weight brings consistent grain yields whether seasons are dry or wet, but it’s a characteristic which can also prove useful for livestock farmers.

Flexible Mindful proving a livestock farm favourite

Group 4 hard feed wheat, Mindful, is proving a winner for farmers looking for high feed wheat yields, or livestock uses, such as whole cropping or crimping, according to Agrovista agronomist John Ball.

Mindful’s flexibility is a key advantage for his farming clients in Lancashire. “They need something that is versatile,” he says. “It could be whole cropped, it could be combined, depending on the year. If it’s been a good grass-growing year, they may choose to combine it if they don’t have space to store whole cropped wheat in clamps, for example.

“You need a variety that can do both, and something you know will perform in terms of its specific weight,” he says.

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Mindful combined like a dream – we always thought Gleam was the best combining wheat ever, but we added 20t/hour to our combine output

Giles Western
The Grove, Brundish, Suffolk

A high specific weight helps with processing, making it easier to ensure every grain is broken open during harvesting. "If it is not a big grain, then it can just go straight through the harvester without being cracked. And then it will pass straight through the animal, not providing any nutritional value and effectively wasting money."

"Getting a good specific weight is key to getting a good final product."

On farm, John is finding Mindful typically achieving specific weights in the 80s. "That's down to its Costello parentage. Costello was a banker for high specific weights."

Its other parent is Evolution, which John says provides good scavenging ability for nutrients. "I think that's a key aspect of why Mindful's yield and quality was so consistent last year, because it was able to scavenge for nutrients in a stressful year."

Another useful characteristic for whole cropping with Mindful is its height. That provides plenty of biomass, which along with the bold grain, helps provide the maximum output.

Agronomically Mindful is strong with excellent mildew and septoria resistance, while holding out well to yellow rust.

"It wasn't as susceptible to the yellow rust outbreak as I saw in Dawsum and Extase," John recalls.

Where it's been grown for whole crop John still advises a full fungicide programme, although the T3 could be manipulated depending on harvest date. "If you're going to take it when the grain still has a bit of moisture left in, you might treat it slightly differently to taking it when the grain is closer to being fully ripe."

But while there might be some scope to reduce spend at T3, John is adamant that cutting it out entirely can jeopardise both yield and quality. "It's important to get right because the cheapest way to feed your cows is through what you can grow at home."

Yields of whole crop Mindful should be around 25t/ha, while grain yields of 10t/ha have been consistently achieved on his clients' farms, John says. "It's been an ideal replacement for Extase and Dawsum type varieties, where the specific weight can be inconsistent."

"A lot of my growers have really liked it – it outyielded most other varieties last year, and it can be grown as a first or second wheat, and drilled early or late, giving a huge amount of flexibility," he concludes.



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John Ball
Agrovista agronomist

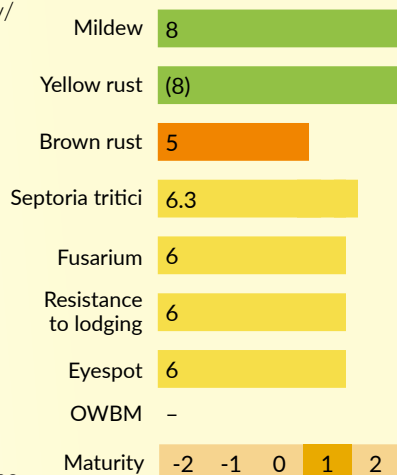


Disease resistance

Mindful

Group 4 Hard

- Best mildew score of any AHDB RL variety/ candidate when trialled
- Outyields Dawsum in east and Champion in north
- Good early drilling yields, third highest overall (including Dawsum/ Champion) in 2022
- Compliments Sartorial with earlier drilling window and differing genetics to reduce disease pressure on farm
- Very high specific weight through Costello parent
- Good second wheat on heavy land
- Mindful appears to have inherited from its parent Evolution the latter's good scavenging capability, with competitive yield both early and late-drilled



REGION	YIELD
UK	104
EAST	104
WEST	104
NORTH	(103)
Untreated yield	91
First cereal	104
Second cereal	(104)
Light soils	(101)
Heavy soils	105
Spec. weight	79.3

AgX

Though Mindful is a Costello cross it has never had all-out resistance to yellow rust as historically you would find in KWS Dawsum, KWS Siskin or indeed Costello itself before YR15 arrived in 2024. This could only mean that its '6' rating was through multi-gene compound resistance and not because of a single gene. Move forwards to 2026 and Mindful's resistance appears to be holding up well.

YR Assessment	9= high levels of YR		
	24/04/2026	01/05/2026	09/05/2026
BAMFORD	3	4.5	7
CHAMPION	8	9	9
KWS DAWSUM	4	7	8
LG BEOWULF	3	7	8
LG TYPHOON	3	5	7
MINDFUL	0	2.5	2.5
RGT GUARDSMAN	0	1	2.5

SOURCE: AgX Dennington 2026

We donate 10% of our Mindful seed sales profit to our partner charities

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