



RGT Guardsman

winter wheat

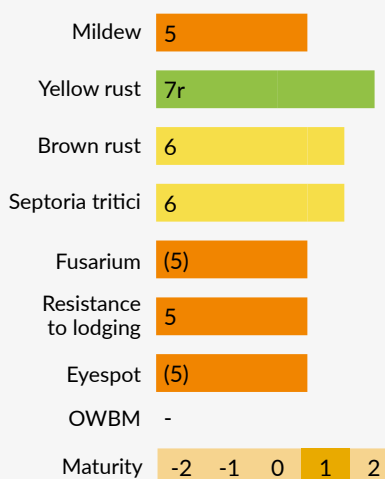
RGT Guardsman is the first BYDV-resistant variety to match conventional feed wheat yield in the absence of the virus, enabling growers to incorporate it into their rotations without any concerns to potential yield shortfall if the virus does not materialise.

The variety is recommended by AHDB and yields without BYDV infection 103% of control across all regions and potentially 104% of control in the north. This is in the same tier as treated Champion, Scope and Bamford. RGT Guardsman was the highest yielding variety at our AgX trial site in Balne near Doncaster harvest 2025.

RGT Guardsman

Group 4 Hard

- RGT Guardsman is the first BYDV resistant variety that has a consistent yield equal to current conventional feed varieties
- RGT Guardsman is the highest yielding BYDV resistant variety commercially available
- It has a generally good profile of disease resistance and is the **ONLY variety commercially available confirmed by UKCPVS to be resistant to yellow rust as a seedling (2025)**
- A high untreated yield equal or better than many current feed varieties
- Standing score treated is equal to LG Defiance and Redwald. Avoid highly fertile sites and use a comprehensive PGR programme
- Slow development, prostrate growth habit and with BYDV resistance, RGT Guardsman is an ideal early drilling variety



REGION	YIELD
UK	103
EAST	103
WEST	103
NORTH	(104)
Untreated yield	87
First cereal	102
Second cereal	106
Light soils	((105))
Heavy soils	101
Spec. weight	75.8

Bracket values give guidance on comparative agronomic values based on commercial observations and Agrovista trial performance.

RGT Guardsman has a slow developing, prostrate growth habit ideal for early drilling.

RGT Guardsman was added to the UK AHDB Recommended List December 2025 and is approved for the UK as a specialist variety. It has a high tillering capacity as can be seen in the photograph. Whilst slow through its seedling vegetative stage it quickens its speed of growth in the spring and through stem extension to finish ahead of many other feed varieties.

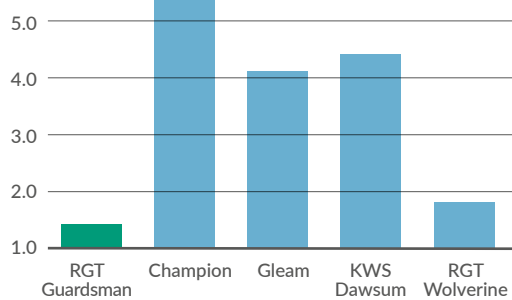
The variety is marginally shorter than LG Skyscraper at adult height. Note we would not recommend August drilling normally in Northamptonshire and will follow with a comprehensive well-timed PGR and fungicide programme to safeguard the varieties genetic resistance.



RGT Guardsman drilled 26 August 2025 Lamport, Northants. Photo taken 5 March 2026

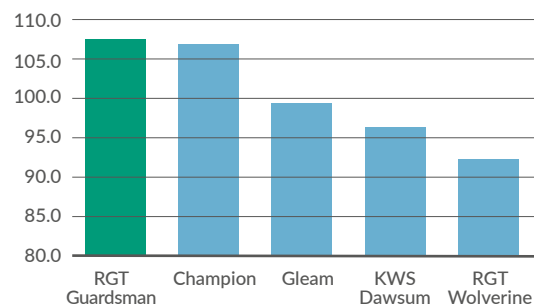
BYDV resistance

Visual effects of BYDV - June 2024



	Visual effects of BYDV June 24 1-9 scale 1= zero effect			
	Ickleton	Chepstow	Wiltshire	
RGT GUARDSMAN	1	1.5	1.5	1.3
GLEAM	6	4.0	2.0	4.0
RGT WOLVERINE	1.5	2.0	2.0	1.8
CHAMPION	7.5	4.0	4.5	5.3
KWS DAWSUM	5	2.5	5.0	4.2

Yield as % of controls - harvest 2024



	Yield as % of controls harvest 2024			
	Ickleton	Chepstow	Wiltshire	
RGT GUARDSMAN	118.0	101.1	101.6	106.9
GLEAM	89.6	100.4	105.6	98.5
RGT WOLVERINE	95.4	86.2	93.6	91.7
CHAMPION	110.0	106.7	101.6	106.1
KWS DAWSUM	102.9	87.4	94.9	95.1

SOURCE: RAGT

It is a common occurrence within RGT Guardsman for some yellowing of the leaves to occur in the presence of infected aphids. The mechanism to resist the virus cannot be implemented without the aphid penetrating the surface of the leaf and transferring the virus into the plant. This is different to a mechanical resistance as seen in wheat plants such as those resistant to wheat blossom midge, where the latter is prevented from accessing the plant entirely. RGT Guardsman resists the virus invasion such that there is less virus present in the plant by harvest than there was initially. As such some yellowing will be seen. A merely tolerant plant would manage to survive through to harvest but the viral load would not diminish, and yield would be compromised.

Variety	0-9 scale (9 = Heavily infected)								
	Untreated			Treated	Untreated				
	24/04/2026	24/04/2026	24/04/2026	24/04/2026	24/04/2026	24/04/2026	24/04/2026	24/04/2026	24/04/2026
	Ag X Dennington Suffolk			Ag X Lampport, Northants	Ag X Draughton	Hinton Waldrist ¹	Walpoles ²		
CHAMPION	8	9	9	2	6	8	5	9	8
KWS AINTREE	6	8	8	2	5	7	5	9	6
KWS DAWSUM	4	7	8	1	0	3	3	8	6
LG BEOWULF	3	7	8	2	4	6	2	8	6
LG DEFIANCE	0	0	0	0	3	7	0	3	0
LG TYPHOON	3	5	7	1	0	0	4	9	8
MINDFUL	0	2.5	2.5	0	6	8	0	6	3.5
RGT GUARDSMAN	0	1	2.5	0	0	2	0	3	1

¹ Courtesy of Bayer, Oxon ² Courtesy of Bayer, Cambs

YR15 and RGT Guardsman

Due to economies of scale, time and cost savings, most arable managers block large areas of land to single varieties.

This has a negative 'environmental' cost by concentrating the gene pool in one locality and maximising pathogen pressure on single dominant gene resistance. The YR15 resistance collapse has followed intense pathogen pressure with many varieties carrying the same resistance genes.

The laws of population dynamics are that as numbers of any species build in an environment, so gene mutations will occur and eventually by natural selection, whether it's a virus, bacteria, fungi or parasite, the defence of the plant will be overcome.

and the resistance mechanism will fail. The yellow rust outbreak (started 2024), was due to the evolution of an existing isolate already present in the UK, rather than a foreign incursion, named 'Warrior-minus'.

As part of the grower's variety decision process, it is important to draw information from more than one source.

RGT Guardsman, according to UKCPVS* is the only variety on the current 2026/27 RL to be completely resistant to yellow rust as a seedling, while AHDB RL adult resistance is a 7. Standard Agrovista rust monitoring 2026 across UK sites builds on AHDB data with monthly updates. See table above.

*UKCPVA = United Kingdom Cereal Pathogen Virulence Survey, NIAB monitors cereal rusts in the UK, detecting and warning industry and growers of new races of disease emerging on resistant varieties.



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