

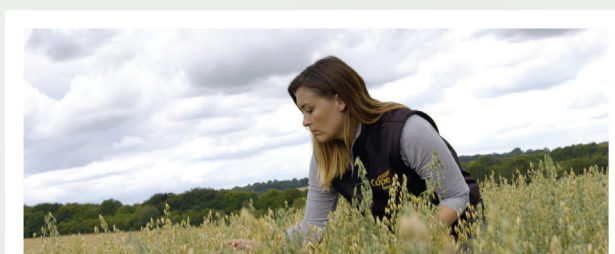
— FACT SHEET

Merlin Spring Oats

Soars above the rest

Merlin is the new outstanding addition to the spring oat market which delivers an unrivalled combination of yield, agronomic features and disease resistance. Merlin Spring Oat is suited to all regions in the UK and produces high quality oats when grown either organically or conventionally.

- Highest treated yields
- Highest untreated yields
- Accepted by all major UK oat millers
- Lowest screening losses – a major plus for the mill
- Early to mature
- Best standing score



	MERLIN	WPB Isabel	Canyon	Lion
Yield (treated)	103	101	101	97
Untreated Yield	99	88	97	82
Mildew	8	5	8	3
Crown Rust	4	5	4	6
Resistance to Lodging	8	7	7	7
Straw Length (Without PGR)	106	111	111	105
Ripening	-2	0	-2	-1

(AHDB 2024)

Merlin outyields the UK's 3 leading spring oats both in treated and untreated trials.

Merlin offers the best lodging score of any listed variety and is early maturing. Merlin also scores an 8 for mildew, the top rating given to any oat.



"We continue to be very pleased with Merlin as the best spring oat available. It's been a consistent performer, and we have found that early drilling correlates with a better yield.

"The 2023 harvest is our fourth year of growing Merlin and we grew 70 ha in total. It has done well despite a difficult spring growing season. The quality was good, and yields ranged from 6.8 to 8.3 t/ha. I am very happy to continue growing Merlin," he says.

Richard Monk,
Hampshire Arable Farmer

Grain Quality

	MERLIN	WPB Isabel	Canyon
Kernel Content %	71.7	73.3	71.6
Specific Weight (kg/hl)	50.7	52.9	50.9
Screenings (through 2mm)	1.9	2.3	2.9

(AHDB 2024)

Merlin's screenings are the lowest of any listed oat which is a real bonus to the mills and specific weight is over 1% higher than Elyann. It's this mix of low screenings, good specific weight, and kernel content that is generating interest from the millers.



"Merlin kernel content is exceptional and suitable for dehulling. The screenings are low, and the bushel weight is often worthy.

"Reliability is an important factor when working with oat varieties for milling and Merlin is a variety that demonstrates reliability. It's an ideal all-rounder that we are in support of our farmers growing to supply us. We buy a great deal of organic gluten-free oats for export and the UK and are very keen to support improved varieties for both growers and millers."

Philip Rayner,
Philip Raynor, Glebe Farm Foods co-owner



"The Merlin milled well, and hope to see more through the mill in the future in larger quantities to see exactly how it performs in a long, consistent run."

Steven McAllister
White's Oats agri supply chain assistant



"We wanted an alternative spring cropping option to wheat and Merlin yielded at around 5 to 6t/ha on a seed contract to Cope Seeds and Grain.

"Some went for milling and the rest for seed, and although the yields suffered with the wet weather, the low inputs meant there was a good margin there."

Ed Ryder
Berkshire arable farmer



"Merlin and Isabel look to be the strongest spring varieties. If more Merlin is grown and it meets spec, there's no reason why we wouldn't take it over Isabel."

Brin Hughes
Agronomy manager at Richardson Milling



"We've grown Merlin for the last two years, it's been our highest-yielding oat at well over 3t/acre. It's early to ripen, is low input, it has good standing ability, and has a very good quality. I've got nothing bad to say about it."

Ronald Dick
Mixed farmer from Stirling, Scotland



"We had 10 farmers growing around 809 hectares of Merlin in 2023, and we saw the best yields that I can remember. The quality was excellent, with bushel weights at a minimum of 56kg/hl and a maximum of 61.8kg/hl. Yields averaged over 7t/hectare dried. We had a good bold sample with Merlin, it has good disease resistance, and it had fewer screenings than other varieties.

"What we look for in the North of Scotland is good standing and an early harvest and Merlin has these attributes. Going forward it looks to be the variety we will be using."

Ewan Mackenzie
W&A Geddes Ltd