

MEDIA VERSION NO. 1 | February 27th 2019

Teagasc Specialist TILLAGE CROPS REPORT

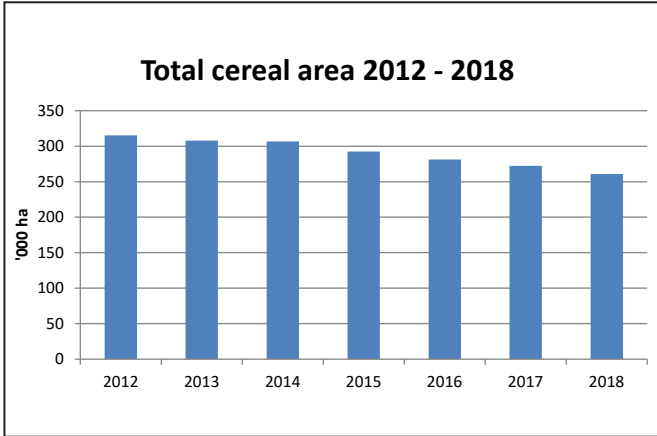


Headlines

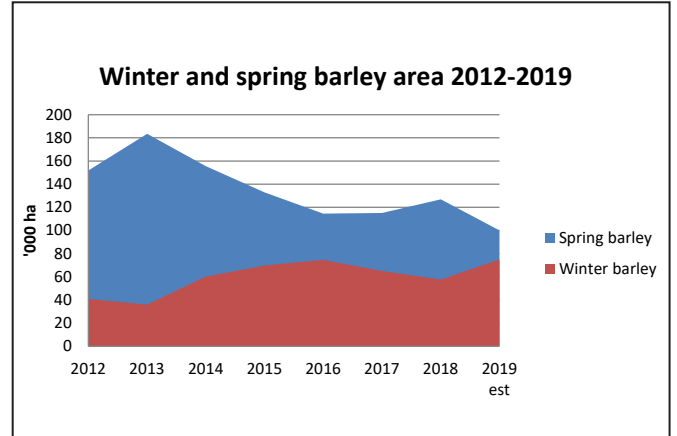
- The total cereal area has decreased by 55,000ha (17%) in the period from 2012–2019. A further decline is expected in 2019. Favourable weather conditions last autumn has resulted in an increase in the winter crop area but this is expected to be offset by the lowest ever spring barley area which is estimated to be ~ 100,000ha. The current estimates for 2019 winter cereals are; wheat (62,000 ha); barley (75,000 ha); oats (12,000 ha).
- Establishment in winter crops is excellent as a result of near ideal seed beds last autumn. Soil temperatures in December and January were significantly above the mean in the main cereal growing areas and as a result most winter cereal crops are 10-14 days ahead of normal growth stage for this time of year.
- Disease levels in cereals are normal for this time of year apart from mildew. Mildew was evident in many crops in January but cooler temperatures in February has slowed its development but is still a concern in some crops particularly oats. Fertiliser application on winter barley will be the priority in the coming days.
- The basic payment scheme (BPS) is now open for applications. The derogation from crop diversification (2/3 crop rule) was a once off in 2019 due to exceptional circumstances last spring and all farmers need to be compliant to ensure they receive all of their BPS payment in 2019.

All information is provided as a guideline only. The definitive information is on the product label which should be read and adhered to before using or recommending products.

Produced by the Crops Knowledge Transfer Department, Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow



Total cereal area has reduced by 55,000ha (17%) 2012-2018. Source cso.ie.



Spring barley in 2019 is expected to drop to 100,000ha in 2019. Source cso.ie and Teagasc estimate.



Mildew common in oats this spring.



Fertiliser will be the priority for winter barley in the coming days.

Winter Wheat

Due to the excellent sowing conditions last autumn the area of winter wheat planted is estimated to have increased from 55,000 ha in 2018, to 62,000ha in 2019. While there were some cases of crow attacks in wheat crops most have established well and are tillering (gs 22 to gs 24) with normal disease levels for the time of year.



Winter Barley

The area of winter barley has increased by an estimated 31% to 75,000ha for 2019. Plant counts are excellent following favourable sowing conditions last October. Growth stages vary from gs. 23 – 30 but most crops are 10-14 days ahead of normal as a result of the mild winter. Disease levels are moderate with mildew being the most prominent disease but there have been a few localised reports of brown rust also.



Winter Oats

Winter Oat area is estimated to have recovered to near normal area of 12,000 ha, which is a 20% increase on 2018. Earlier than normal planting has allowed excellent establishment but the mild winter has encouraged substantial growth and many crops are now quite advance with high levels of mildew.



Winter Oil Seed Rape

The area of winter oilseed rape is expected to be approximately 8,900 ha this year. August sown crops on high fertility sites are excellent with GAI's of 1.5 -2.0. Many of the later sown crops are from GAI 0.5-1.0 and will need their first nitrogen immediately. Some pigeon damage has been reported lately on backward crops. Light leaf spot levels are very high in un-sprayed crops but can also be found in crops that received an autumn fungicide but at lower levels.



Beans

Bean yields were disappointing in 2018 as a result of late planting and a summer drought. The reduced area of 7,000ha in 2018 (11,500 in 2017) led to an increased protein payment of €350/ha which was up from €215/ha in 2017. Based on current contract prices on offer (>€200/t) and the Teagasc harvest report 5 year yield average of 6.0t/ha (2013-2017) beans can be profitable for growers in 2019.



Spring Cereals

The area of spring barley is expected to decrease to 100,000ha in 2019. This expected decrease is due to an increase in the autumn sown area and the continual erosion of the overall cereal area. Growers are advised to complete a crop budget before sowing spring cereals in 2019. Use three year averages for yields and place realistic values of grain and straw prices. Availing of forward prices when a grower is making money at that price reduces risk.



Greening Update

There are relatively few changes to the Greening system this year. Rules are largely the same as 2018.

The Basic Payment scheme (approx. 70% of the total payment) and Greening (approx. 30% of the total payment) go hand in hand again this year. Both of these schemes are mandatory to ensure full payment.

All applicants who are required to comply with greening have to make the application through the Department of Agriculture on-line system.



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