

**MORLEY RESEARCH CENTRE  
HARVEST RESULTS**

**SEEDRATES FOR COMPOSITE HYBRIDS (SYNERGY)**

**Crop** Winter oilseed rape

**Manager** J B S Freer

**Object** To investigate the influence of seedrate on the performance of the composite hybrid Synergy to assess the need for changes in recommendations compared with a conventional variety.

**Site** Felix Thornley Cobbold Trust Farm, Otley, Suffolk

Target seeds/m <sup>2</sup>	Plant populations/m <sup>2</sup> on 16 October			Seed yield t/ha at 91% dm		
	Apex	Synergy	Mean	Apex	Synergy	Mean
40	25.3	14.9	20.1	4.27	4.17	4.22
60	35.3	34.0	34.7	4.67	4.70	4.68
80	41.3	39.3	40.3	5.02	4.46	4.74
100	62.7	44.7	53.7	4.61	4.82	4.71
120	40.0	44.7	42.3	4.91	4.74	4.83
LSD	16.35		11.55	0.498		0.353
Mean	40.9	35.5		4.69	4.58	
LSD	7.31			0.223		

The trial was drilled on 6 September into a trashy seedbed. Consequently target plant populations were not achieved as establishment averaged 50%. There was no yield response to seedrates above 60 seeds/m<sup>2</sup> and only a yield response when the rate was increased from the lowest (40 seeds/m<sup>2</sup>) to 60 seeds/m<sup>2</sup> from Synergy where the plant population rose from 14.9 to 34 plants/m<sup>2</sup>.

Despite low plant populations both varieties yielded well demonstrating the crop's ability to compensate even at very low populations. This trial does not provide any evidence to suggest that Synergy is any different from conventional varieties however, due to low establishment these data should be treated with caution as the high seedrates were not fully tested.