

**MORLEY RESEARCH CENTRE
HARVEST RESULTS**

Seed rates for winter oilseed rape

Varieties Synergy (composite hybrid) and Apex

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

Manager J B S Freer

Site Felix Thornley Cobbold Trust, Stanaway Farm, Otley, Suffolk.

Target seeds/m ²	Plant populations/m ² on 31 October			Seed yield (t/ha at 91% dm)		
	Apex	Synergy	Mean	Apex	Synergy	Mean
40	24.2	36.3	30.3	3.80	4.35	4.08
60	41.7	37.1	39.4	4.28	4.41	4.34
80	41.4	45.5	43.5	4.43	4.35	4.39
100	45.5	61.9	53.7	4.27	4.35	4.31
120	63.5	67.8	65.7	4.25	4.15	4.20
LSD	11.17		7.90	0.318		NS
Mean	43.3	49.7		4.21	4.32	
LSD	5.00			NS		

The trial was drilled on 5 September 1997. Although conditions were reasonable at the time it became dry and establishment was only a little over 50% of the target. There was no significant yield response to seed rates overall. However, there was a significant response to increasing seed rate from the lowest population of Apex (that only established 24.2 plants/m²). Synergy performed as well with 36 plants/m² as at higher populations.