Plant Science into Practice

CROP RESEARCH AT CAMBRIDGE – HINXTON

Lordship Farm at Hinxton is one of Niab's main trial sites in our central area, alongside sites at Duxford and our Park Farm HQ near Cambridge, and in Lincolnshire.

- Focus mostly on cereals and OSR, with options for other crops including sugar beet
- Niab pathology and crop genetic research trials
- Seed certification and DUS and VCU plots for multiple species including cereals, OSR and herbage
- AHDB Recommended and Variety List plots
- Niab Agronomy Membership and commercial variety and input evaluation trials
- Centre for High Carbon Capture Cropping project – herbal leys.

To cover the huge range of crop species and trial types a careful rotation has to be maintained.

The land is easy working mostly silty sand which has in recent years lent itself readily to cultivation trials and direct drilling.

focus on Weeds

Under the previous occupancy Lordship Farm was under environmental schemes, with some fallow fields and others featuring reduced inputs. This legacy has partly helped to produce a diverse weeds resource on the site – wild oats in the black-grass field, a broad-leaved weeds field and several brome field – allowing comprehensive weed studies.

These weeds fields need careful management to sustain a realistic population of the type or weed species the field is dedicated to, and also to ensure it stays predominantly as the target weed type or species – all within a sustainable self-contained rotation to ensure these fields are 'open for business'. It also means that these fields in any given year may look quite 'dirty', for example wild oats in a black-grass field.

The Hinxton site is a core part of Niab's wider capabilities in weed management trials and research, together with sites in Kent and Lincolnshire, with scope and potential to replicate trials across a range of soil types, geographical conditions and weed pressures.

For further information on commercial chemical and cultural weed management research opportunities:

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