

High yielding feed winter wheat with excellent disease resistance

SY Defiant is a high yielding feed wheat, bred by Syngenta in the UK and developed in New Zealand in conjunction with Cropmark seeds as head licensee. It has high yield potential and has performed well in irrigated and dryland sites.

SY Defiant is a short variety with excellent straw strength and is early maturing. It has excellent disease resistance.

Variety	Canterbury	Southland	North Island
SY Defiant	105	106	106
Graham	100	101	106
Starfire	90	94	87
Firelight	104	107	99
Kerrin	94	89	87
Voltron	103	99	101
Ignite	93	89	87
Yield t/ha	11.2	9.07	11.1

Table 1. Average wheat yields from 2022/23 FAR trials. FAR Booklet 2023. Presented as % of trial means. Canterbury average of 6 trials, Southland average of 2 trials, NI 1 trial. Yields are presented as % of trial means.

Grain Quality

SY Defiant produces a big heavy grain with high test weight, grain weight and low screenings.

	TGW	TEST WT	SCR %
NI	51	76	0.5
NI average	47	73	0.7
Canterbury	53	78	1.2
Canterbury average	50	75	0.9
Southland	59	72	0.8
Southland average	44	67	0.9

Source: FAR booklet 2022.

Agronomic information

SY Defiant has an excellent disease resistance profile resulting in a low response to fungicide use, making it a low cost, low risk variety to grow along with low sprouting risk and early maturing. It can be sown from late March through to mid July.

Ideal plant populations are March – April 150 plants/m², May-June 175 plants/m².

SY Defiant is a short stiff straw variety and will only need PGRs in high fertility, high yielding environments.

Disease and agronomic profile – SY Defiant wheat (FAR booklet 2023)

Septoria tritici	Mostly resistant
Stripe rust	Resistant
Leaf rust	Resistant
Powdery mildew	Resistant y resistant
Fusarium head blight	Moderately resistant
Straw strength	Stiff
Crop height	Short
Maturity	Early
Sprouting susceptibility	Low

Nitrogen

A standard nitrogen programme for a feed variety should be applied to SY Defiant.

Fungicides

Timing (Growth Stage)	Comments
T0 (GS20/1)	Not required unless eyespot treatment is needed
T1 (GS32)	Less intensive application required triazole plus multisite.
T2 (GS39)	Main fungicide application to keep the crop clean before ear emergence. Use a triazole and SDHI.
T3 (GS55-59)	A standard application of strobilurin and triazole mix

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