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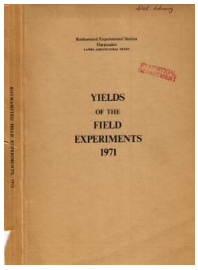
Yields of the Field Experiments 1971

Full Table of Content



Harvest Areas for Cereals

Rothamsted Research

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For the classical and some long term experiments the full description of the treatments up to 1967 was given in the 'Details': modifications are given whenever treatments change. For other long term experiments the key is given in the first year of the experiment with modifications as they arise.

Harvest Areas for Cereals

On most of those cereal experiments at Rothamsted and Woburn (but not Saxmundham) which are harvested by combine the 'blank-row' technique is used to distinguish the areas taken for yield from the discard areas. When seed is drilled in rows (7) in. apart (the most common arrangement), appropriate coulters are prevented from sowing and 8 or 16 rows are left for yield according to the cutter-bar width of the combine to be used. If the row-spacing is other than 7 in. a similar arrangement is used but with a different number of rows.

The ends of plots are separated from each other or from headlands by 3 ft. fallow paths made after the crop has established.

The 'Area harvested' in the 'Results', when the blank-row technique is used, is the product:-

number of rows harvested x distance between rows x length of rows.

A series of experiments by Widdowson at Rothamsted (68/Da/9, 68/Db/1, 69/R/W/13, 69/R/B/5, 70/R/WW/3 showed that on average the yield of 16 rows (50 ft. long) was 7.8% greater with blank rows than without.

If no rows are left blank and the plot is wider than the combine harvester so that discards are left uncut, the 'Area harvested' is the product:-

width of cutter bar x length of rows.

If the plot is narrower than the combine so that the whole area between paths is cut, the 'Area harvested' is the product:-

number of rows x distance between rows x length of rows.

We do not apply the adjustment used by some workers who take the harvested area as width x length where each is measured to the centre of 'paths' up to a maximum of 18 in.

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