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Yields of the Field Experiments 1972

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Conventions 1972

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CONVENTIONS 1972

In this report the following conventions are observed unless otherwise stated.

All areas are in hectares. All plot dimensions are in metres.

All seed rates, rates of application of fertilisers, sprays etc. are per hectare.

All yields and plant numbers are per hectare.

The following abbreviations are used in variate headings:

Wheat, barley, oats, rye, beans etc.

Grain: Grain (at 85% dry matter)

Straw: Straw (at 85% dry matter)

Sugar beet

Roots: Roots (washed)

Sugar %: Sugar percentage

All crops

Mean D.M. %: Mean dry matter % as harvested

For any other crop, details of abbreviations are given as necessary.

For each experiment, other than annuals, references are given for previous years. These refer to the '(Numerical) Results of the Field Experiments' - (t) indicates a year when treatments were described. For the classical and some long-term experiments reference is made to 'Details' - a separate publication with full title 'Details of the Classical and Long Term Experiments up to 1967'.

'Nitro-Chalk' refers to the grade containing 21% N.

Compound fertilisers indicated thus - (20:10:10) = compound fertiliser (20% N, 10% P₂O₅, 10% K₂O), granular unless otherwise stated.

Treatment of cereal seed with organo mercury and gamma BHC should be assumed in this report, exceptions are noted.

Treatment symbols are used in many summaries of results, and for short-term experiments the key is given with the treatment descriptions.

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.

Standard errors

NOTE: This report gives standard errors of differences, not of means as hitherto.