

C E N T A U R



high yielding winter feed wheat

Centaur is a very high yielding, autumn/winter sown feed wheat, which has been developed by Crop & Food Research at Lincoln. It is recommended for sowing in all autumn/winter feed wheat regions. Arable Cultivar Evaluation (ACE) trials indicate that Centaur is consistently one of the highest yielding feed wheats producing a grain of good feed quality as desired by the end users.

It has excellent resistance to most common wheat leaf diseases, although has shown some susceptibility to a new race of stripe rust in 1998/99.

Key Features

- *One of the highest yielding wheats in ACE trials*
- *Good grain size and test weight with low screenings*
- *Short, strong straw; easy to thresh*
- *Well suited to early autumn and winter sowing*
- *Suited to both Canterbury and Southland*

Characteristics

Centaur is a full-season awnless winter wheat that is short, strong and tillers well, producing average heads with good grain set. It has good sprouting resistance and is easily threshed.

Centaur produces grain with weights of 45-50 g/1000, low screenings and good falling numbers and test weights. Protein levels are typical for feed wheats but are management dependent.

Centaur has good resistance to black point, glume blotch, mildew, leaf and stem rust, and average resistance to barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV). It has shown some susceptibility to a new race of stripe rust.

Management

General agronomic practices should be similar to other feed wheats as outlined below.

Sowing

Centaur is a full season winter wheat and will perform best when sown in mid to late April or early May, but can be sown in June or July. The recommended sowing rate is 110-140 kg/ha. Like all wheats, BYDV prevention is recommended when sowing early or in mild winters.

Fertilizer

Centaur is capable of producing very high yields. Where adequate soil moisture will be available from tillering to grain-fill, medium to high levels of nitrogen could be applied from early tillering to second node development, to achieve desired yield levels.

Straw strength

Centaur has good straw strength in most conditions but, like all wheats, straw shortener at average rates (1.0 - 1.5 l/ha chlormequat) may be of benefit where expected yields are over 8 t/ha or where there has been lush and vigorous spring growth.

Fungicides

Knowledge of **Centaur's** reaction to the new stripe rust race is limited, so crops should be monitored for stripe rust infection from tillering onwards. A fungicide may be required during stem extension to control stripe

rust as well as after ear emergence for control of stripe rust and other late leaf and ear diseases. This will assist **Centaur** to reach its full potential. Further information will become available from the seed production licensee, Peter Cates Ltd.

Irrigation

Like all high yielding wheats, **Centaur** will benefit from irrigation whenever it is necessary, but it is especially important during mid to late grain-fill, to ensure the yield potential is achieved.

Harvesting

Centaur has good sprouting resistance but, like all wheats should be harvested promptly to avoid any physical or quality deterioration.

Acknowledgements

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Marketing

The New Zealand Institute for Crop & Food Research Limited, as head licensee, have appointed **Peter Cates Ltd** as seed production licensee.

Average value for all autumn wheat sites over the four harvest years 1996-1999 (source: FAR Arable Update Nos 38 and 39).

	Relative yield	Grain protein	Screenings %	Seed weight	Test weight	Falling No.	Black point	Mildew*	Stripe rust*	Leaf rust*	Speckled leaf blotch*
Canterbury											
Centaur	117	10.9	3	46	72	259	3	8	6	8	6
Hussar	113	10.8	3	46	74	293	1	9	8	9	8
Southland											
Centaur	108	10.6	1	49	73	258	3	8	6	8	6
Hussar	107	10.3	2	51	76	290	2	9	8	9	8

* Scale 1-9, high score indicates high resistance

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