

# Ability



## Top of its class

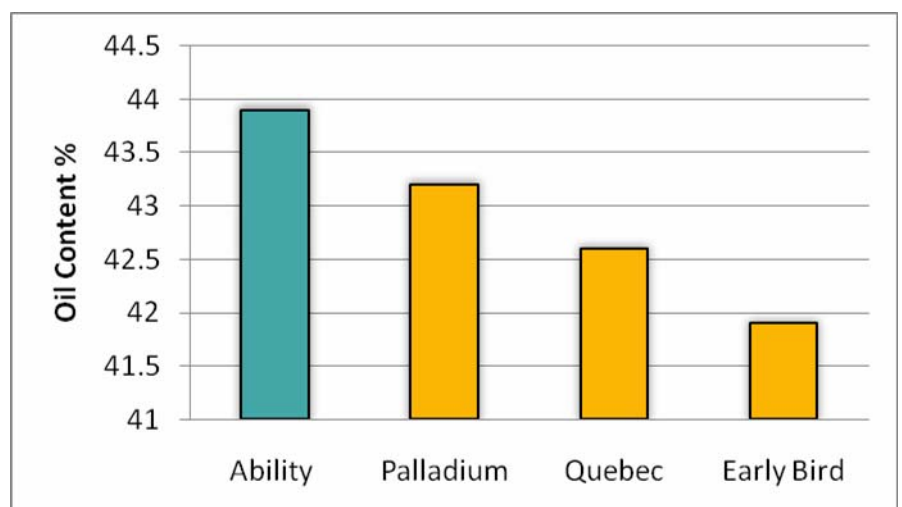
### The UK's Favourite Spring Oilseed Rape

Ability has been reliably grown in the UK for the last 4 years

#### Key Benefits

- Very high oil content combined with high seed yields
- Excellent all-round agronomic package
- Proven track record of consistently high gross output

**Ability** is the most widely grown spring oilseed rape variety in the United Kingdom. It has been grown successfully in the UK since 2006 and has had consistently high yields year after year. Ability has one of the highest oil contents on the Descriptive List, its high oil content helps growers reach oil bonuses and avoids diluting any winter cropping.




Source: HGCA Descriptive list



## Why grow spring oilseed rape?

Growing spring oilseed rape means reduced costs for both energy and fertiliser compared to winter varieties and a flexible sowing window. It also helps spread the harvest load during the busy summer period. The strong root associated with rape enables deep penetration and more soil fracturing than cereals. Disease control is rarely necessary and with the exception of flea beetle, spring oilseed rape is generally pest free.

Ability can be purchased with  seed treatment to give improved persistence against flea beetles at the important early growth stages vital for establishing a good plant stand.

## Ability Growers Guide

### Sowing

It is essential for spring rape to achieve a quick and even germination. Therefore a fine, firm seedbed should be produced, and rolled after sowing. Sow conventional seed at 130-150 seeds/m<sup>2</sup> in April to May when soils have warmed up to about 8°C. The rate can be reduced to 110-120 seeds/m<sup>2</sup> under optimal conditions. Flea beetle attack on cotyledons can be a major problem, so seed must be treated with an insecticide product.

### Nutrition

Check indices and apply P&K to seedbed if necessary. A well established crop will need a nitrogen target of 75-125kg N/ha. This can be applied in one amount after establishment and under good growing conditions to avoid leaching losses.

Apply according to RB209 guidance. Sulphur and nitrogen can be bought in one compound. Consider applying micro-nutrients depending on soil pH. If it is high or low then micro-nutrients may be locked up. Plant Growth Regulator is not required.

### Pests

Be prepared to spray for flea beetle several times during the establishment stages. Pigeons are not so much a problem as in winter rape because spring rape grows very quickly once established. However, if cold wet weather occurs at early stages (1-6 leaves) then they may become a problem as the crop stops growing. Pollen beetle can be a problem in spring rape. The spray threshold of 5 beetles / plant at green bud stage is lower than for winter rape, so close monitoring of crop is essential.

### Diseases

The occurrence of fungal diseases are less than in winter rape and spraying may not be economically justified. Alternaria can occur to damaging levels if conditions are favourable (warm and humid weather during flowering and maturation).

### Weeds

Weed control is by application of pre-emergence chemical(s). If good growing conditions prevail at sowing there may be a few days available to spray before the crop emerges.

### Harvest

As with winter rape, the temptation to desiccate early must be avoided otherwise full oil content of the seed will not be achieved. It will be ready to desiccate when 90% of the seeds in the mid-third of pods on the main stem are red to dark brown.