ERUCIC ACID - KEY CONTROL POINTS

There have been a number of incidents where contractual limits for erucic acid have been breached, resulting in claims and, in some cases, rejection. There are points in the crop cycle where contamination can be identified early enough to do something about it. The pathway below has been designed by the NFU in consultation with the supply chain to help protect your interests and meet your contractual requirements.



Q SEED

- Keep samples, labels and records of each variety
- Certified seed have you got/seen a copy of the certificate of analysis for erucic acid content? Double zero varieties are required to have an erucic acid content lower than 2%
- Farm saved seed you should have your FSS tested for erucic acid. Remember under FOSFA contract rules FSS should only be saved for one generation

WEEDS

Talk to your agronomist about effective control of weeds with high erucic acid content

JUST BEFORE HARVEST

Have you sampled and tested any crop you are planning to use as farm saved seed for next year?

TRANSPORTATION

- Is it clean and fit for purpose?
- Retain samples of each variety ideally by field
- Retain a sample of each lorry load leaving the farm

CONTRACTS

- Have you read and understood your Oilseed contract?
- Have you read the Oilseed Sellers Checklist?

6 FIELD CHOICE

Know the history of fields (own or rented) where you plan to grow OSR, particularly if previously used for HEAR OSR



ERUCIC ACID CONTAMINATION IN OSR

Higher than expected levels of erucic acid have been found in deliveries of double zero OSR. In order for rapeseed oil to be used in food products, erucic acid levels must by law not exceed 5% and therefore, the contractual maximum in most contracts is set at 2%. The majority of OSR is traded on the FOSFA 26A contract (blank copies are available for NFU members on NFU Online) but you are encouraged to check your own contract.

The below table shows the acid profile of commonly found weeds:

WEED	PALMITIC (%)	STEARIC (%)	OLEIC (%)	LINOLENIC (%)	ERUCIC (%)
Wild radish (Raphanus raphanistrum)	5.2	1.9	27.3	11.7	26.7
Cleavers (Galium aparine)	7.2	1.9	44.3	17.8	-
Charlock (Sinapis arvensis)	3.3	1.1	15.3	13.0	31.7
Cranes-bill (Geranium dissectum)	14.4	2.0	19.6	3.4	9.9
Common poppy (Papaver rhoeas)	9.5	2.5	10.4	0.5	-
Shepherds purse (Capsella bursa-pastoris)	7.6	4.5	14.1	35.2	-
Hedge mustard (Sisymbrinm officianate)	8.7	1.5	6.7	35.4	20.9

Data courtesy of Monsanto Technical Development research

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ERUCIC ACID:

- Log the issue with NFU Call First (0370 845 8458)
- Confirm you have a problem consider an independent retest using gas chromatography
- Consider challenging a penalty if you believe it was wrongly applied
- If you have not already, initiate mitigation steps as laid out on the timeline overleaf

WANT FURTHER INFORMATION?

The full NFU briefing is available on our website and includes guidance on:

- Independent re-testing
- Advice on challenging a penalty
- Mitigation measures and further information on the control points
- NFU activity