VARIETY PERFORMANCE GUIDE

Elsoms
The Seed Specialists

TOP BAMFORD '25.

Your guide to growing Bamford, the most impressive soft wheat available to UK growers.

"Given the importance of soft distilling wheat to Scotland, we are delighted to see Bamford coming into the market, bringing a great package of yield, quality and disease resistance."

Laura Beaty, Seed Grain Director, Simpsons Malt

INTRODUCTION

The AHDB Recommended List offers growers plenty of choice when it comes to selecting a variety of wheat; so how do you know which variety is right for you?

New varieties enter the market every year, however that doesn't mean your decision-making process needs to be more complicated. Selecting the variety that offers you the most will be of high importance; Bamford makes that choice easier.

This guide provides you with all the information you need, giving you confidence in your choice to grow Bamford and get the best from it, each step of the way.

BAMFORD'S PEDIGREE

Bamford is the progeny of two excellent Elsoms Wheat varieties; Moulton x EW129.

Moulton: a recommended soft feed variety with good specific weight and export quality. Highly suited to late drilling, demonstrating tremendous vigour in both autumn and spring. Paired with medium tillering capacity and a very clean disease profile, the variety found success in the organic segment.

EW129: a hard variety kept and selected as a parental line in the breeding programme for its high spec weight and very high yields. Moderate in its speed of development, paired with early maturity, makes it well suited to a wide sowing window. Its stiff straw and Septoria resistance also supports early drilling!

AHDB RECOMMENDED

BAMFORD
Winter Wheat

TOP FEATURES

- **Most marketable variety in the UK,** adding value to all growers as it can be grown for **feed, distilling, milling, and export.**
- **Very high yielding** wheat across all regions of the UK.
- **Robust disease resistance** and agronomic package: one of the few varieties to **increase in its resistance ratings,** giving confidence to growers.
- **Vigorous growth and rapid development** ensure easier management and greater **competitiveness against grass weeds.**

VARIETY OVERVIEW

Bamford was recommended as the highest yielding group 3 wheat and is one of the most exciting and competitive varieties on the market.

Not only does it set the new standard for soft wheats by yield, but with its broad market access it is one of the most valuable wheats to UK growers. With a UK treated yield of 106% and an untreated yield of 90%, Bamford is one of the highest yielding varieties the UK has ever seen. It has a quicker speed of development than most varieties and is particularly vigorous in the spring which has shown excellent control against grass weeds.

Its recommended drilling window is from the third week of September onwards with the ideal drilling slot being mid to late October. Thanks to Bamford's trait resistance to Pch1 eyespot and soil-borne wheat mosaic virus, along with its strong overall disease package, foliar disease control should be tailored regionally based on disease pressure.

In the occasional years when orange wheat blossom midge poses a risk, Bamford may need treatment due to its lack of resistance. The threshold for milling wheat is one midge per six ears, and one in three for feed.

YIELD

High performing wheats are great, but consistently high performing ones are truly outstanding.

Bamford maximises yield in every region and is one of the most consistent performing varieties in AHDB trials. With a UK yield of 106% it offers high potential to all growers across the country; **East 106%, West 107% and North 107%.***

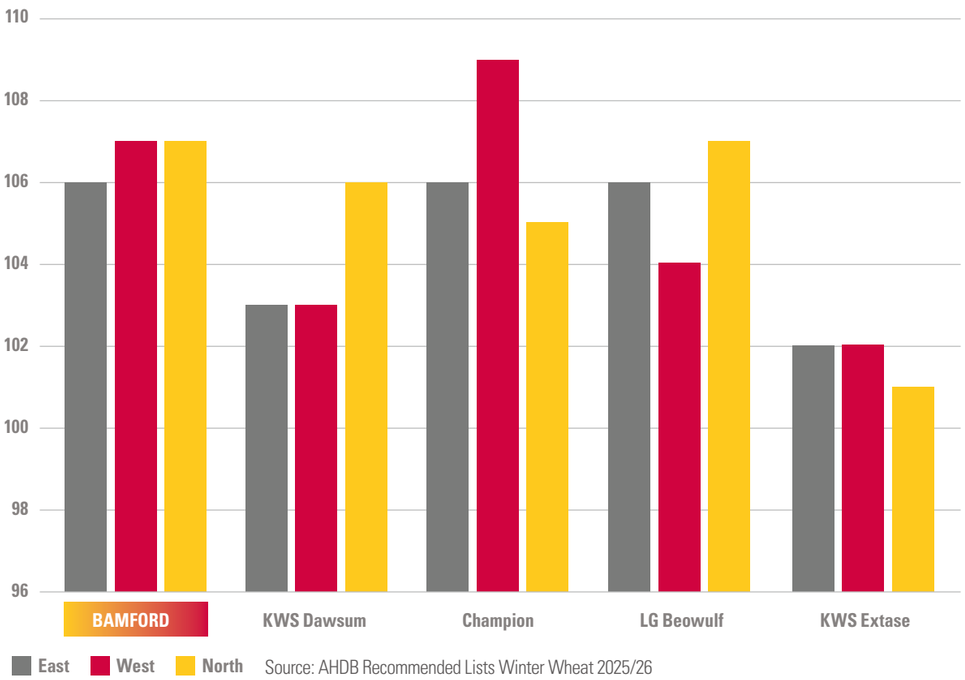
Bamford's yield makes it one of the most competitive varieties on the Recommended List; out classing straight feed varieties. Bamford has continuously demonstrated itself as a contender in the fight for the top position.

*AHDB Recommended Lists Winter Wheat 2025/26

REGIONAL AND SOIL PERFORMANCE

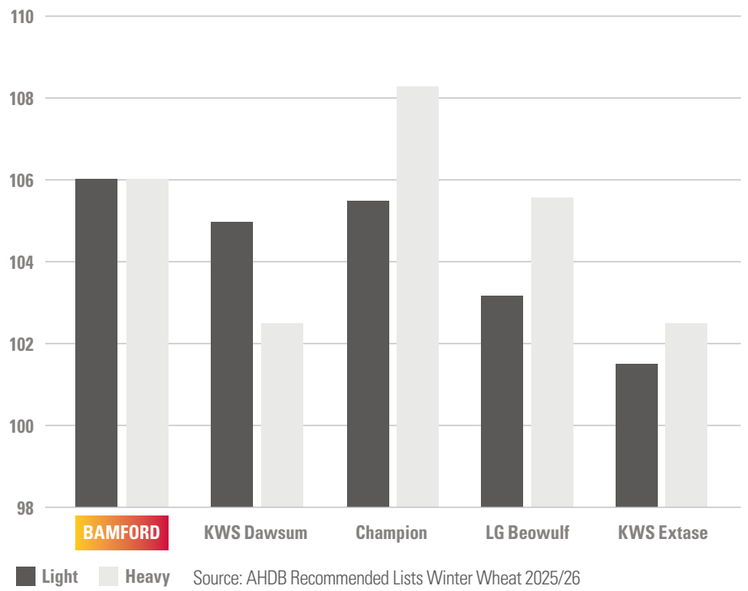
Bamford is consistent in its regional performance, it's also unaffected by different soil types. Well suited to medium soils, it performs in light and heavy equally as strong; both at 106%.

Regional performance treated yield (% of controls)



Source: AHDB Recommended Lists Winter Wheat 2025/26

Yield performance by soil type (% of controls)



Source: AHDB Recommended Lists Winter Wheat 2025/26

DRILLING

The only predictable thing about the UK weather is its unpredictability. That's why choosing a variety with a flexible drilling window is essential. Bamford can help mitigate environmental risks with its **relatively wide sowing window.** Its recommended drilling window is from the **third week of September onwards** with the **ideal drilling slot being mid to late October.** With moderate tillering ability it's recommended that seed rates are increased the later you drill. It's important to note that Bamford has a quicker speed of development than most varieties and as a result, it is not advised to be drilled in the early part of September.

In part it is Bamford's speed of development and grass weed competitiveness that has shown it to be a suitable candidate for direct drilling. With some growers choosing to go down the min till cultivations and embrace the ethos of regenerative agriculture, choosing a variety that suits these systems will become more important.

Drilling rates will be on par to standard UK wheats and should be tailored to your on-farm situation. The chart below acts as a guide to drilling date based on good seed-bed conditions.

BAMFORD	Early September	Mid September to mid October	Mid to late October	Late October to mid November	Mid November to early December
Light soil	Not recommended for drilling	300 - 350	350 - 375	350 – 400	425 - 475
Heavy soil		300 – 350	350 - 400	375 – 450	475+

Seed rates should always be adjusted in accordance with weather and seed bed condition.

PEST AND DISEASE RESISTANCE

Bamford has one of the **highest untreated yields** on the Recommended List, thanks in part to its strong disease package. *Septoria tritici* and Yellow Rust have long been major challenges for agronomists, and more recently, the rise in Brown Rust infections has added an additional layer of difficulty.

Bamford boasts a solid 6.6 rating for Septoria which is the second highest resistance rating of the soft wheats. Varieties with high resistance to *Septoria tritici* allow growers to drill earlier and reduce reliance on fungicide programmes, offering greater flexibility in management. *see AHDB sowing date adjustment graph on Septoria. Early control of *Septoria tritici* is important and in high risk areas, a targeted approach should be considered.

The importance in control of early season diseases is high on most growers' agendas. **Bamford carries the Pch1 resistance gene** for eyespot, making it well-suited for late September drilling and an **excellent choice as a second wheat.** Eyespot can survive on infected ploughed-in-trash for three years, so establishing a crop through the used minimum tillage can help in reducing the risk.

Bamford has a proven track record in direct drilled and minimum cultivation scenarios.

Yellow and Brown Rust can still be effectively controlled with a range of chemistries, but the timing and the window of opportunity for application are becoming increasingly difficult to manage. Bamford shows **good resilience to both rust diseases** and is one of the few varieties on the Recommended List to have increased its rating for both. It is still believed that sowing later can help reduce the risk of Brown Rust as it requires live plant material to survive. 2024 saw very high Brown Rust pressure from start to finish, and although we never hope for seasons like it, it was an opportunity for Bamford's high resistance to be seen firsthand.

Bamford has several end market uses, some of which may offer a premium for reaching quality specification. Around 20% of a wheat crop's yield comes from the ear. This means that effective protection against Fusarium Ear Blight is essential for maximising Bamford's yield potential, and meeting end-market specifications.

	Untreated yield (% of treated controls)	Mildew	Yellow Rust	Brown Rust	*Septoria tritici*	Eyespot	Fusarium Ear Blight
BAMFORD	90	6	7	6	6.6	6*	5
KWS Dawsum	89	8	9	7	6.3	5	7
Champion	86	5	8	5	7.6	4	6
LG Beowulf	85	6	9	4	6.6	6	6
LG Astronomer	83	4	9	8	5.7	5	6

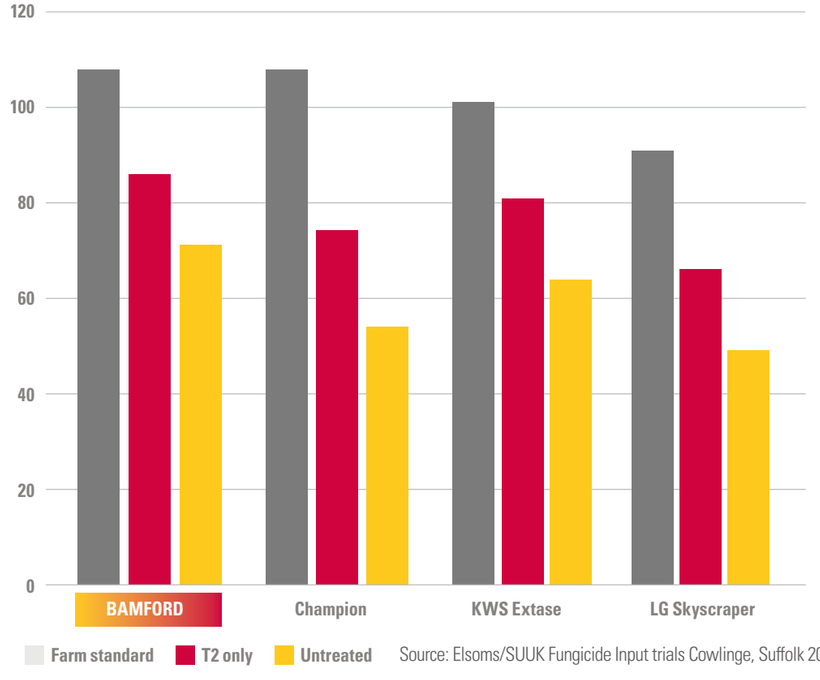
* = variety carries the Pch1 Rendezvous resistance gene to eyespot. Source: AHDB Recommended Lists Winter Wheat 2025/26

TREATED AND UNTREATED RESILIENCE

Bamford's yield potential goes above and beyond. **In private trials it has consistently been the highest yielding variety** across a range of adjusted fungicide treatments. The farm standard treatment, which included a T1, T2 and T3 spray, yielded the highest results for each variety.

Where **Bamford shows great strength, is in the untreated yield,** outperforming other wheat varieties with a fungicide treatment and expressing some of the **smallest differences between the treatments.** Considering that timings can be difficult at T0 / T1, by maintaining a good yield from only a T2 spray very much demonstrates Bamford's strength.

Fungicide trial, Cowlinge, Suffolk 2023



Source: Elsoms/SUUK Fungicide Input trials Cowlinge, Suffolk 2023

These trials were set up to evaluate the genetic resilience of the varieties and do not endorse or propose a reduction in fungicide rate or application.

MARKET OPTIONS AND QUALITY

When choosing a variety of wheat, you should have in mind what your end market is.

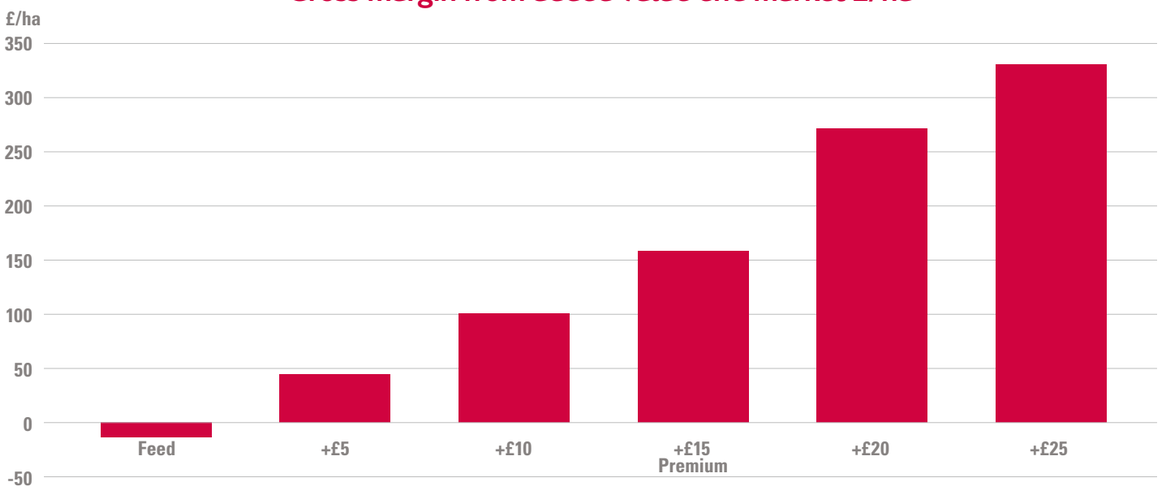
You may be looking to grow a feed variety for inclusion in on-farm rations or to sell to a mill when the price is right.

Bamford is a high quality UKFM group 3 wheat with **flexibility for multiple end markets,** making it one of the **most marketable varieties in the UK.** The tremendous opportunity offered with Bamford is that it is **not just a quality wheat, but a quality wheat that out yields many of the feed only wheats.**

Premium contracts can be an attractive option for growers, encouraging them to choose varieties with an end market. Bamford offers the advantage of being easy to grow, while still meeting the quality specifications required for premium contracts. **With consistent treatment practices, Bamford is highly competitive in terms of potential earnings.**

Compared against the average of the three highest yielding feed wheats on the AHDB Recommended List (106.9%) Bamford sits very comfortably at 106.2%. However, when you consider the potential that the variety has for added value over other options, it stands out from the pack.

Gross margin from added value end market £/ha



Yield source: AHDB Recommended Lists Winter Wheat 2025/26 (three highest yielding feed comparators KWS Scope, Champion, LG Redwald)

Grain quality measure

	UKFM Group 3	Export (uks)	Distilling	BAMFORD'S quality
Specific weight kg/hl (minimum)	74	75	72	78.7
Protein content %	11.5	10.5 - 11.5	11.6 (max)	10.7 (Protein content)
Admix % (maximum)	2	2	2	11.6 (Milling spec)
Hagberg Falling Number (minimum)	220	220	180	247
Chopin Alveograph W	N/A	70 - 120	N/A	108
Chopin Alveograph P/L	N/A	0.55 (max)	N/A	0.5
Moisture content % (maximum)	15	14	15	

Source: AHDB Recommended Lists Winter Wheat 2025/26

Source: AHDB website and industry placed contracts

GROWING BAMFORD GROWS END-MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

Wherever you farm in the UK, Bamford offers **complete flexibility,** with **profitable end-markets** available to you.

Buy-back contracts are available throughout the country.

Bamford is approved for distilling

Bamford is suitable for domestic biscuit and cake milling

Bamford out-yields many feed-only wheats

Bamford has uks for export

BAMFORD IS AN IMPORTANT SUSTAINABLE SOFT WHEAT CROP GOING FORWARD

"Cefetra works as a trusted supply partner to flour millers across the UK and Europe. We recognise the importance to the milling sector of a sustainable soft wheat crop going forward. As such, we were one of the first merchants in the UK to stand behind a guaranteed buy-back. We feel that, not only is there a captive domestic demand, there could also be export opportunities to the continent should the UK soft wheat crop reach a critical mass once again."

Chris McCallum, Trader, Cefetra

AGRONOMY

Varieties all need to be treated differently. Fertiliser applications should be targeted to the crop's requirements, enabling it to reach full potential. Bamford has a very high potential for yield and will therefore benefit from a nutrient plan emphasising Nitrogen.

FERTILISER

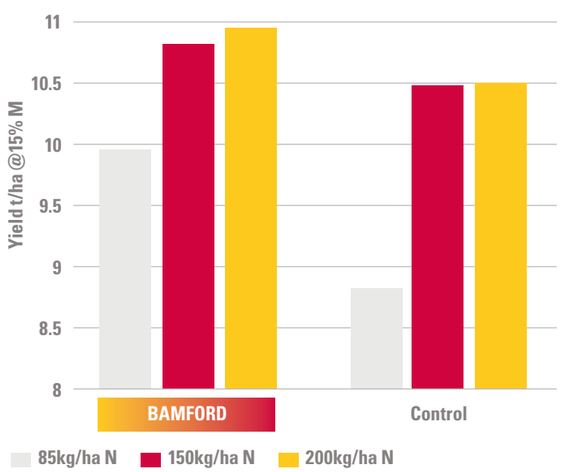
Bamford **does best with a split nitrogen application** and the total amount received will vary on an array of factors. Typically, you could be applying between 160-240kg N/ha depending on its end market specification, the available N in the soil and the rate of uptake.

Elsoms recommend splitting your nitrogen into three applications as this will help to support each development phase. AHDB's pattern of uptake shows 30% of the total nitrogen in taken before first node emergence (GS31). Nitrogen applied at this stage will support Bamford's vigorous speed of development and encourage tillering. The second application should be made at stem elongation (GS31-32) as the nitrogen uptake between the first node and flag leaf, accounts for a further 40% of the total. Nitrogen applied at this stage will help to retain tillers, promote grain fill and maximise on yield potential.

In trials we have seen that **Bamford has responded well to a front-loaded nitrogen programme** with 30-50% of total dose applied at the first application. When splitting your programme, we recommend applying 40% in the first dose, which is slightly above the more traditional 1/3 ratio.

As Bamford is a fast-developing variety, slightly higher levels of phosphorus would be beneficial to support root development and nutrient uptake.

Nitrogen rate trial 2022
Bamford + Control

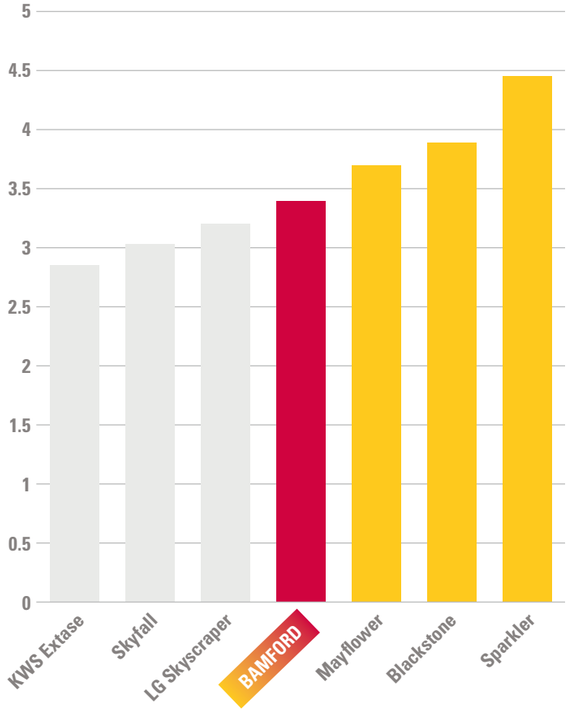


Source: Elsoms/SUUK Nitrogen trials Cowlinge, Suffolk 2022

TILLERING

AHDB benchmark the optimum plants/m^2 to be 260. **Bamford is a medium/slightly above average tillering variety** and establishing the AHDB benchmark is considered good practice. Most wheats will comfortably carry three tillers per plant, and this will help to populate a tiller count of around 750-800 ears/m^2 in spring. Producing a crop with too many tillers may reduce the effect of targeted agronomy. Establishing the correct ear density will help in canopy management of the crop which can bring benefits such as increased air flow for greater disease tolerance. Supporting tiller formation with higher potassium levels could support stem strength.

3 year average tiller count



Source: Elsoms/SUUK Agronomy development trials 2022-2024

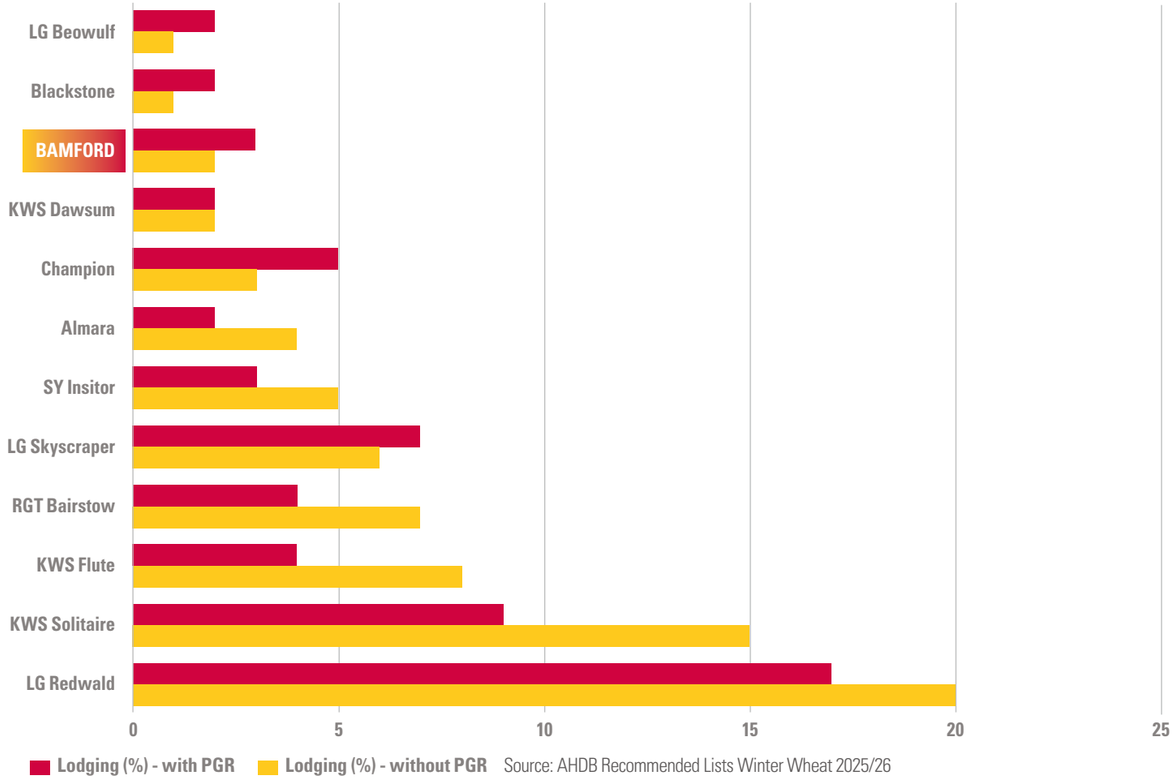
PGRs AND LODGING

Bamford is a stiff strawed variety and has **performed exceptionally well in trials.** The use of PGRs is commonplace in a standard wheat crop as they can help to reduce stem height and promote tiller retention; all factors in decreasing the risk of lodging.

Resistance to lodging is an important factor to consider when looking to maximise return with a high yielding variety. The application of Nitrogen can increase the risks of lodging so growing a variety with a good resistance in the first instance is paramount. **Elsoms suggest choosing a variety with a resistance rating of 7 or higher** as these varieties will offer you the **lowest risk of lodging on farm.**

Considering Bamford's growth habit and the fertiliser applied to support its yield potential, a well-timed PGR programme is important. **Elsoms encourage a split dose PGR programme** with products containing trinexapac-ethyl and chlormoquate. It is important to make sure the timings on these split doses are correct and that they are not applied if the crop is under stress. It may be appropriate to apply a third PGR dependant on the drilling date and crop thickness. Our recommendation would be for a product such as Terpal or similar. In instances where it is deemed suitable, be aware that applications around flag leaf emergence can lead to crop damage and encourage secondary tillers and should not be applied in temperatures above 21°C.

Bamford stands up to the test – lodging results

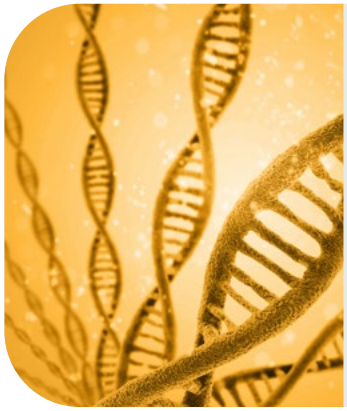


Source: AHDB Recommended Lists Winter Wheat 2025/26

Fertiliser recommendations should always be made by a FACTS qualified advisor, be centred around RB209 values and not exceed the maximum Nitrogen application amount for a specified area e.g. nitrate vulnerable zones. All agronomy advice should be tailored to your situation and should come from a qualified BASIS agronomist.

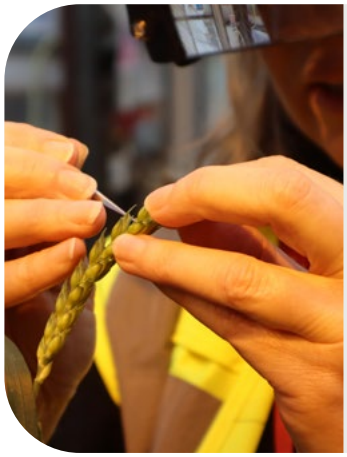
VARIETIES THAT EXCEED EXPECTATIONS

We're committed to continued investment in cutting-edge research and development to bring you top-tier winter wheat varieties, like Bamford.



Advanced genomics platform.

Our state-of-the-art genomics platform enables us to accelerate the breeding process, allowing for precise selection of desirable traits. This technology empowers us to develop varieties that deliver superior performance.



Expert staff and technology.

Our dedicated team of breeders, scientists, and agronomists work tirelessly to develop and refine our varieties. We harness the power of artificial intelligence (AI) and drone technology to enhance our breeding programs and ensure the highest quality standards.

Elsoms WHEAT

Strength in partnership.

Elsoms' long-term partnerships ensure we rigorously evaluate and validate our wheats' performance through extensive testing in various scenarios and conditions. Elsoms has access to a huge resource of data and knowledge. Our partnerships also give us access to a wide variety of breeding material from across the world allowing us to keep developing new varieties year on year, bringing beneficial new traits to market.

Speak to the specialists

For any questions about Bamford Winter Wheat or to discuss the portfolio, contact the team today:

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