

Harvest Snippets Summary

Harvest Snippet 2, 2026 includes results and associated weather data for the following trial:

1. 2025-26 Autumn sown feed and biscuit wheat cultivar performance trial, Halcombe, Manawatū (Dryland)

1. 2025-26 Autumn sown feed and biscuit wheat cultivar performance trial

Location: Halcombe, Manawatū - Dryland

This trial was sown on 8 May 2025 (ex. Forage Brassica) resulting in average established plant counts of 169 plants/m². The trial experienced some lodging, but was harvested successfully on 20 January 2026. Average yields at 10.8 t/ha were higher than the 2022-2025 4-year mean of 9.8 t/ha and last season's yield of 9.3 t/ha.

Table 1. Preliminary grain yields for the 2026 harvest for 16 wheat cultivars grown under dryland conditions at Halcombe, Manawatū compared with the 4-year mean yields harvested from trials at the site between 2022 and 2025.

Cultivar	2026 harvest			2022 to 2025 harvests	
	Plants /m ²	Yield (t/ha)	% of site mean	4-year mean Yield (t/ha)*	% of site 4-year mean*
SY121233	173	12.1	111	11.0	112
SY122518	195	11.9	110	-	-
Skybolt	170	11.5	106	10.3	105
Kinetic	145	11.5	106	10.4	106
KFW2302 ^B	158	11.3	104	-	-
Voltron ^B	166	11.1	102	9.7	99
Whopper ^{BR}	169	11.0	101	10.2	104
KFW2201	165	10.8	100	10.3	105
SY Defiant	173	10.7	99	9.7	99
SY122464	177	10.6	98	-	-
Firelight	180	10.5	97	9.7	99
Firefly ^B	171	10.5	97	9.2	94
Aberdeen	173	10.3	95	9.8	100
Graham ^{B, BR}	187	10.2	94	9.6	98
Ignite ^B	175	10.1	93	9.2	94
Kerrin	133	N/A	N/A	9.4	96
Site mean yield (t/ha)	169	10.8	100	9.8	100
P value	0.008	<0.001			0.155
LSD (p=0.05)	26.3	0.5	4.7	NS	NS
CV (%)		3.3			

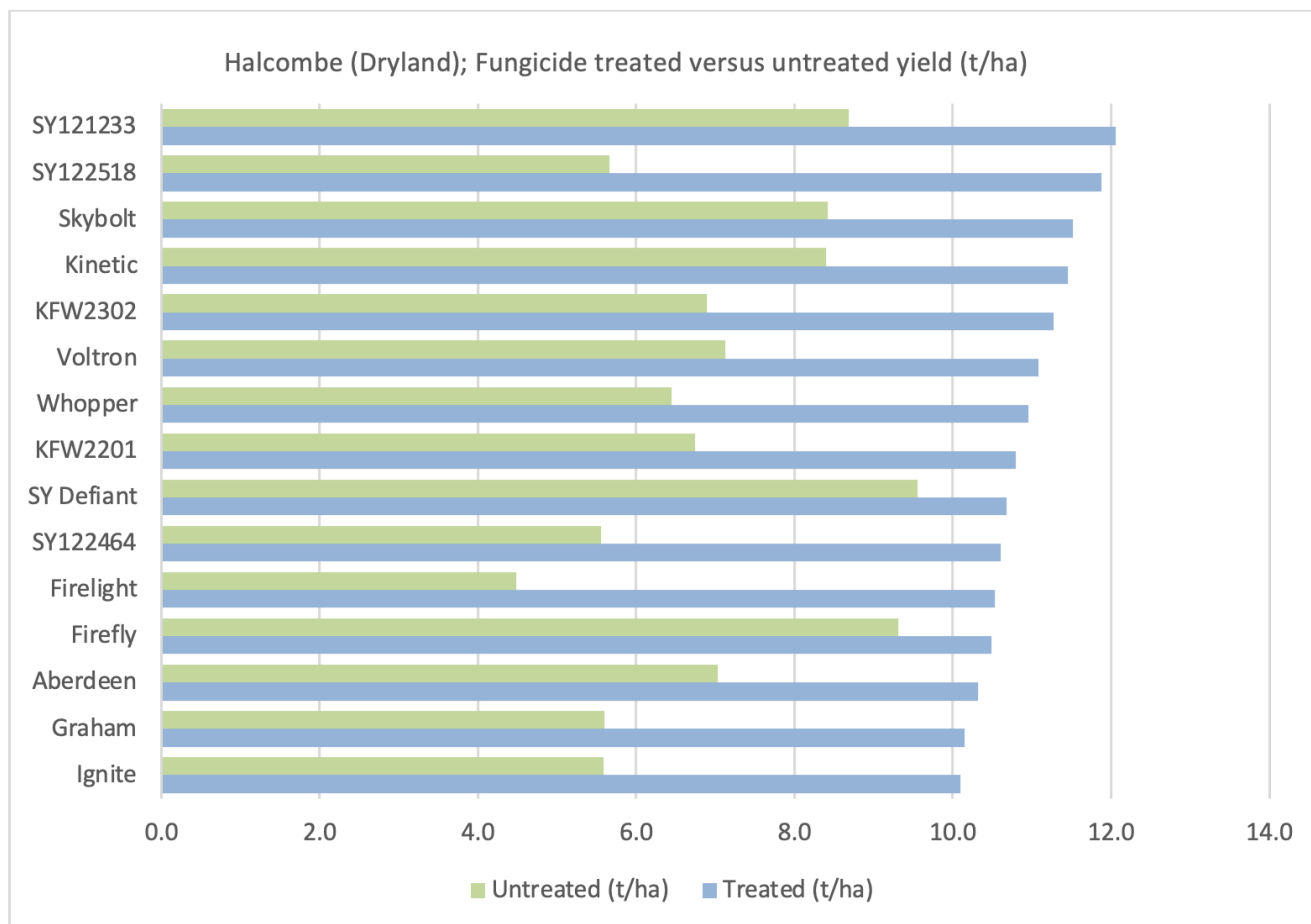
Note: – indicates a new entry at this location. Yellow indicates the cultivar was amongst the greatest yielding group of cultivars. Updated 4-year means including the 2026 harvest will be published in the upcoming CPT Booklets. NS, LSD not calculated as P-value not significant.

^B Biscuit wheat, ^{BR} Bread wheat (treated as a feed wheat).

N/A: This cultivar had a plant population of less than 20% of the average plants per m² and was therefore excluded from the publication by the breeder in accordance with CPT criteria.

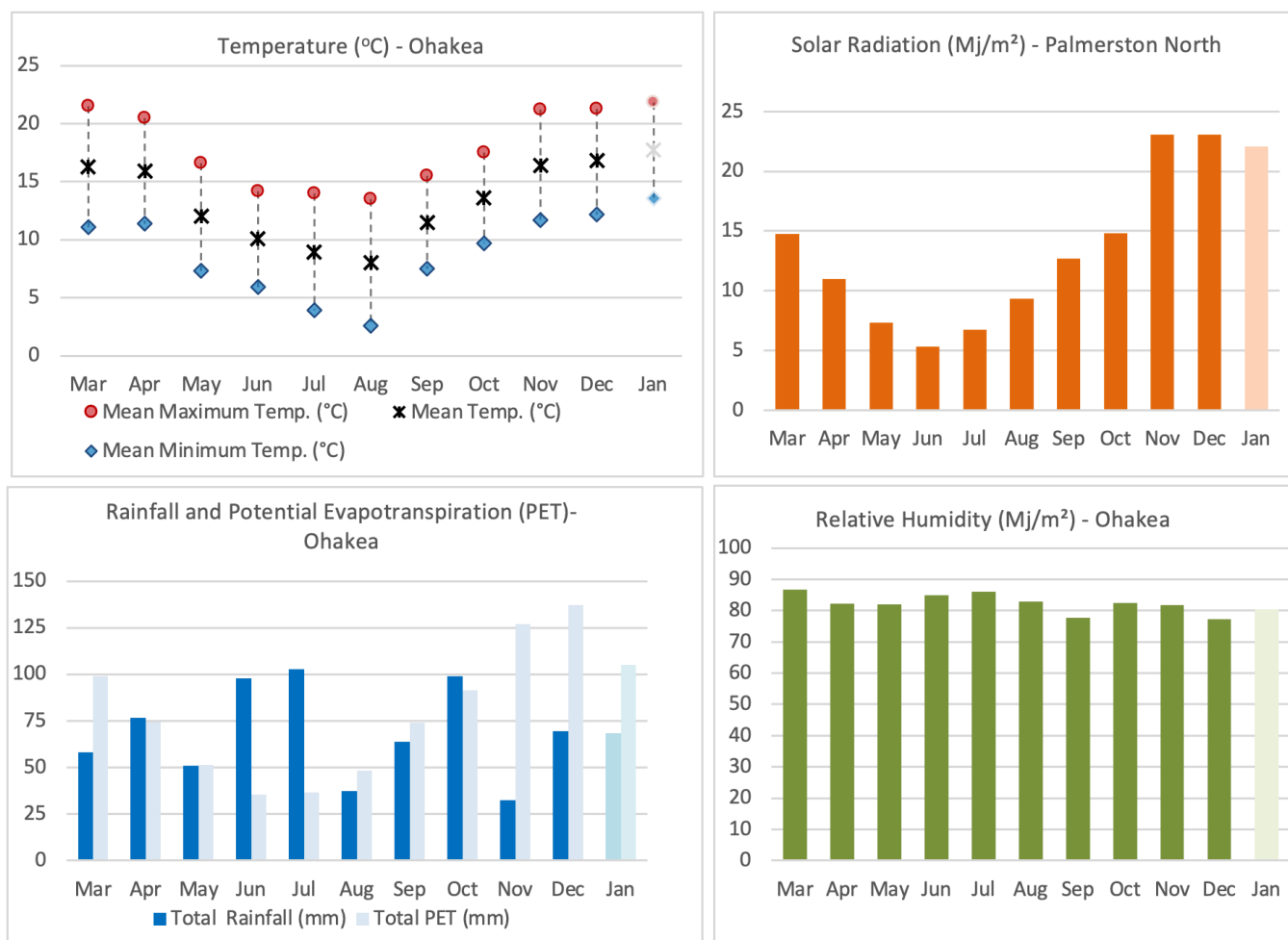
Target plant population for trial: 150 plants/m².

Figure 1. A comparison of preliminary grain yield results for the 2026 harvest for 15 feed and biscuit wheat cultivars grown under dryland conditions at Halcombe, Manawatū and treated with fungicide, compared with plots that had fungicide excluded.



Note: The treated yields are an average of four plots while the untreated includes just one plot. Diseases recorded at this site were Septoria Tritici Blotch and Leaf rust. Kerrin has been excluded from the dataset.

Figure 2. 2025-26 seasonal weather data: Temperature, Rainfall, Potential Evapotranspiration and Relative Humidity from the weather station at Ohakea, Manawatū. Solar Radiation from weather station at Palmerston North, Manawatū. Source: MetWatch –January data are incomplete.



Relative Humidity data have been calculated by averaging the hourly 8:00 to 9:00 and 9:00 to 10:00 AM data.