

# MINOR CEREAL CROP IDENTIFICATION



Anthesis in hybrid rye

## Hybrid rye

A widely cross-pollinating species with a requirement for vast isolation distances. The inspection timing is critical as anthesis must be observed. This leads to a wide range of inspection times as the flowering period can be dependent on environmental conditions. Late April to late May can be optimum time for hybrid rye to be inspected; there is also a requirement for a different inspection technique.



Spelt wheat with fused glumes on spikelet

## Spelt wheat

Relatively few crops are available for inspection each year. The species has the same structure as other cereal crops, but the glumes and lemmas as fused tightly to the grain.



Neck hair differences outside the range permitted for this particular variety

## Triticale

Triticale is open-pollinating, although to a lesser extent than rye, so expect variation within a crop, although this must be within a tolerable limit. Inspections are usually carried out around the time of winter barley and early winter wheat inspections. To be able to assess the glaucosity and pigmentation of the ears correct inspection timing is key.

Range of oat spikelets, husked oat, naked oat, husked oat with awn



## Oats

More of a staple when it comes to cereal crop inspection, although it is possible for seasoned inspectors to only see one or two crops a year.

The crop can still prove challenging. Timing of inspection is generally later than wheat, but it can often burn off quicker especially in hot summers. Oats have fewer characters than other cereals and can show a little more variation in the field, but as a self pollinating species the expression of characteristics should be reasonably stable. A key part of inspection in oats is to check as many characters as possible, e.g. lower leaf sheath hairs, flag leaf margin hairs and upper culm node hairs. However, in the metre sample all characters should be examined closely, as they can help indicate hidden differences within the crop.



Oat rachilla length short, medium, long

Upper culm node hairs present and absent in oats



If there are any concerns with inspection of the minor species, please contact the NIAB Certification Training Team for support: [seedcert@niab.com](mailto:seedcert@niab.com)