

Skybolt (KFW2102)

- High yielding winter feed wheat
- Has performed well in all regions tested (Canterbury, Southland and lower North Island)
- Good all round disease resistance profile, especially stripe rust and powdery mildew
- Large grain and high test weights



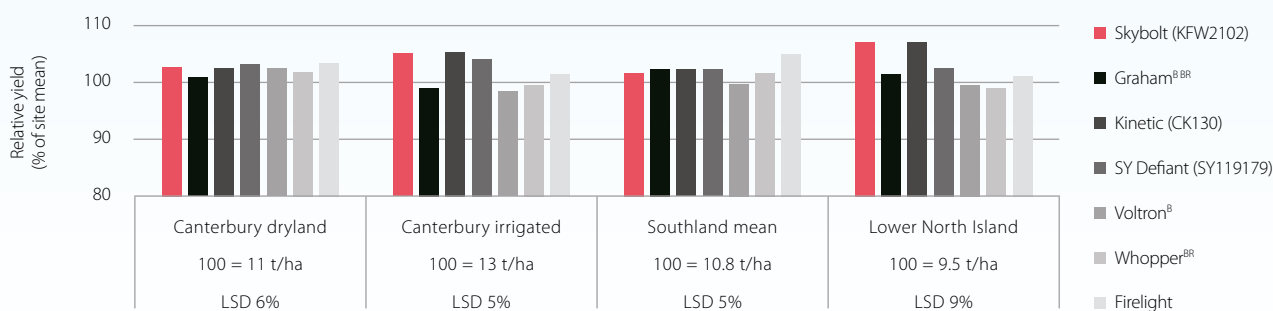
Description

Skybolt (KFW2102) is an exciting new winter feed wheat cultivar bred by Limagrain UK and further developed by PGG Wrightson Grain (PGW Grain). In the past five seasons in internal and FAR CPT trials, Skybolt (KFW2102) has produced consistently high yields across all grain growing environments. It has been in CPT 2 trials for two seasons where it has been a consistent performer in Canterbury, Southland and the lower North Island. It has a good disease package and produces an intermediate hard/soft grain with high kernel weights and good test weights.

Yield

Skybolt (KFW2102) has consistently produced high yields across a wide range of sites, with adjusted 4-year mean yields of 103%-106% across all South Island regions. In the lower North Island, the adjusted 4-year mean yield was 107%, making it one of the leading cultivars in that region.

FAR (CPT) Autumn Sown Trials (4 Year Mean)



CPT Skybolt (KFW2102) grain quality (4 year mean)	Canterbury	Southland	Lower North Island
Kernel weight (1000 seed weight)	51	50	42
Test Weight (kg/hl)	76	73	69
Protein content (%) (N% x 5.7)	10.1	8.9	9.9
Screenings (%)	0.6	0.7	0.7

Time of drilling

Due to its strong vernalisation requirement, the full yield potential of Skybolt (KFW2102) is most likely to be achieved from an early drilling window of early April to late May.

Speed of development

Month planted	Typical heading dates for Skybolt (KFW2102) in Canterbury
Late March	Early November
Late May	Mid – Late November
Late June	Early – Mid December

From autumn plantings, Skybolt (KFW2102) is an intermediate maturing cultivar. However, it should not be planted after the end of June in areas with mild winters as its high vernalisation requirement may result in excessively delayed heading. From the PGW Grain 2023/24 sowing date and rate trial, an average yield decrease of 5.0-7.2 t/ha was observed from sowing after June.

Seed rate and tillering characteristics

Skybolt (KFW2102) has moderate tillering capacity and a tight V-shaped tillering habit. Target plant populations should be at the high end of the ranges on page 5. The 2023/24 PGW Grain sowing date and rate trials confirmed that in high fertility/April sowings a target plant population of 125-150 plants/m² is optimal. In medium yielding/May sowings it should be increased to 150-200 plants/m² and in lower yielding/June sowings further increased to 200-225 plants/m².

Soil type, rotation and geography

Skybolt (KFW2102) has shown that it can perform well under a wide range of different soil types and environments in Canterbury, Southland and the lower North Island.

Disease resistance

Skybolt (KFW2102) has good resistance to most cereal diseases in New Zealand, especially stripe rust and powdery mildew. Considering this disease profile and fungicide trials conducted by PGW Grain the last two seasons, a low to moderate fungicide programme is recommended. For both years Skybolt (KFW2102) has produced high untreated yields of over 14.0 t/ha. It has been entered into PGW Grain fungicide trials for the 2024/25 season to provide further information. Please contact your local PGW Representative for site specific recommendations.

Disease resistance results:

Disease	PGW Grain disease nursery ratings (9 highly resistant, 1 highly susceptible)
Stripe rust	9
Leaf rust	8
Septoria leaf blotch	7
Powdery mildew	9
Fusarium head blight	7

Straw strength and height

Skybolt (KFW2102) is a medium height cultivar with stiff straw. In 2023/24 PGW Grain plant growth regulator (PGR) trial, in the absence of lodging, the greatest height reductions were observed in the Cycocel + Moddus Evo programmes. The use of PGRs is generally recommended, with the actual programme determined by a combination of sowing date, seed rate, nitrogen use, crop thickness and yield potential. As with any cultivar, do not apply if the crop is under any form of stress. Please contact your local PGW Representative for site specific recommendations.