

Viand and Reiziq drill sown in middle of November: which crop will yield more?

In C21, many growers took a risk by planting outside the recommended Reiziq sowing window because of the large area of winter crop being harvested and limited Viand seed availability. Wilbriggie neighbours Jim and Anthony Salvestro and Robert Andrezza had only two days between their first flush date for their drill sown Viand and Reiziq crop. The neighbours were keen to see which crop would outperform the other because although the Salvestros' Viand crop was sown in the window, the yield potential is 97% of Reiziq¹.

Table 1: Ideal first flush dates for drill-sown Reiziq and Viand crops in the MIA/CIA. Source: Rice Variety Guide 2020-2021.

	MIA/CIA ideal first flush time for drill sowing
Reiziq	25 Oct – 5 Nov
Viand	5 – 20 Nov

Excellent establishment and weed control

The Salvestros drilled 130 kg/ha of Viand into canola stubble on 15 November, and Robert drill sowed 140 kg/ha of Reiziq following his winter wheat cereal crop on 17 November. Plant establishment for the two crops was excellent (200-250 plants/m²) because weed control with both crops was clean.

Managing for maturity

The maturity of the two crops was similar – PI, drainage, and harvest dates were all within a few days of each other (see Table 2 for crop dates). The two crops would have been exposed to similar weather conditions (see Figure 1).

Robert managed for maturity by doing two quick flushes and filling up straight away on 4 December to prevent any further delay with late sowing. The Salvestros flushed once, and on 10 December, filled up a week later than Robert.

Both growers also managed for maturity through their nitrogen application. Robert reduced his total applied nitrogen by 10% compared to the rates he applied to his Reiziq crops sown earlier with a full growing season. The Salvestros had a particular mindset: “We are aiming for a 10-tonne crop, so we will only fertilise for a 10-tonne crop to prevent any delay at the end of the season.”

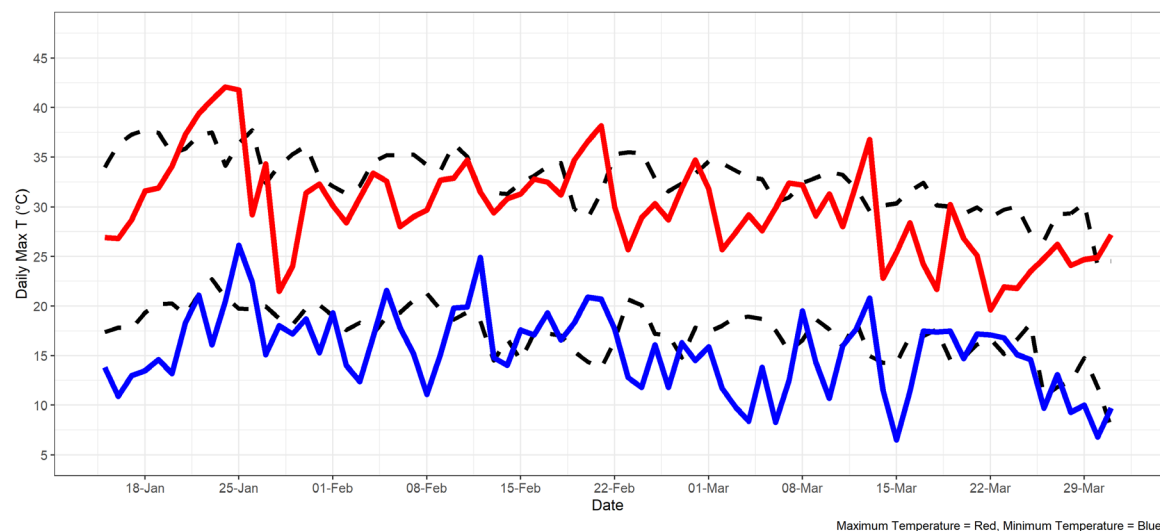


Figure 1: Daily maximum and minimum temperatures of Benerembah plotted against the previous five-year average, from 1 January to 31 March. Imagery provided by Allister Clarke, SunRice

¹ Yield as a percentage of the five-year average yield of Reiziq. Rice Variety Guide 2020-2021.

Although there was a difference of a week in permanent water date, the quicker maturity of Viand² helped to bring the Salvestros' crop into PI four days earlier than Robert's Reiziq crop. The Salvestros drained three days before Robert, however both commenced harvesting on the same date.

How did the crops yield?

Both neighbours feel that they drained too early, with haying off evident in both crops, particularly in Robert's. It is difficult to estimate how much yield loss occurred from haying off; however, the Viand crop out yielded the Reiziq crop by 1 t/ha.

Learnings for next time



Upon reflection, Robert says, "Next time I will windrow my wheat crop to try to bring it in earlier so it isn't outside the window. In a cool year, I was lucky to yield as well as I did." Robert also stressed that "double cropping with Reiziq has meant I have made a really profitable gross margin on that paddock."

The Salvestros said that they will stick with sowing Viand now that they have seen their result. You can read more about the management of the Salvestros' Viand crop [here](#).

Figure 2: Rob Andreazza, Wilbriggrie preparing C22 rice ground

Comparison of calendar of operations for the Viand and Reiziq crop management

Operation	Date of operation	
	Viand crop	Reiziq crop
Harvest winter crop	3 t/ha canola crop, 15 Nov 16 November	7.5 t/ha wheat crop, 16 Nov
First flush	Drill sow 130 kg/ha of Viand	17 November Drill sow 140 kg/ha Reiziq
Second flush	N/A	27 November
Pre-permanent water urea	250-320 kg/ha	320-350 kg/ha
Permanent water	10 December	4 December
Panicle initiation	16 January	20 January
Top dress urea	125 kg/ha	125 kg/ha
Drain	27 March	30 March
Harvest	18 April – 2 May	18 April – 27 April
Average harvest moisture	19.66%	20.89%
Yield	11.5 t/ha	10.5 t/ha

² Viand's maturity (days to flower) compared to Reiziq is -12 days, on average. *Rice Variety Guide 2020-2021*.