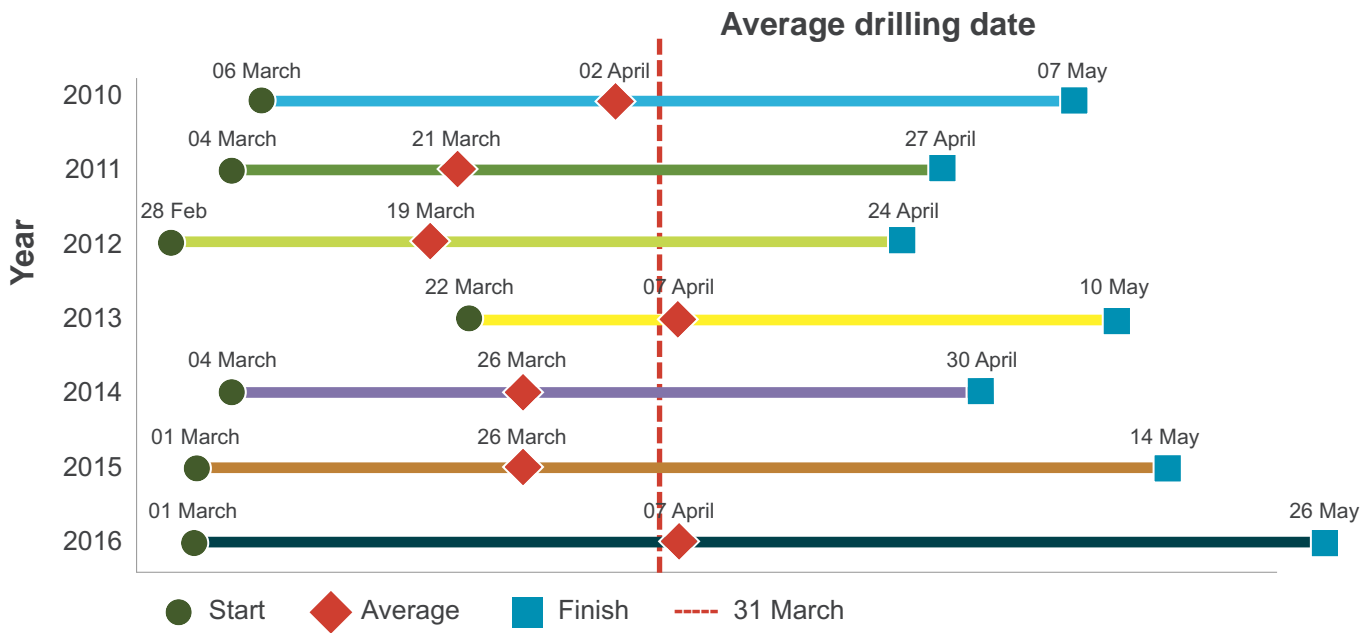


# Drilling Date

## Key Points:

- ▶ Providing soil conditions are suitable and no cold spells are forecast, drilling can begin as soon as possible after **1st March** to ensure that yields are maximised.
- ▶ Drilling should be completed as soon as possible and ideally completed **before the end of March**.
- ▶ Drilling after 10th April could lead to yield loss of over four adjusted t/ha per week on average.

# Current crop situation

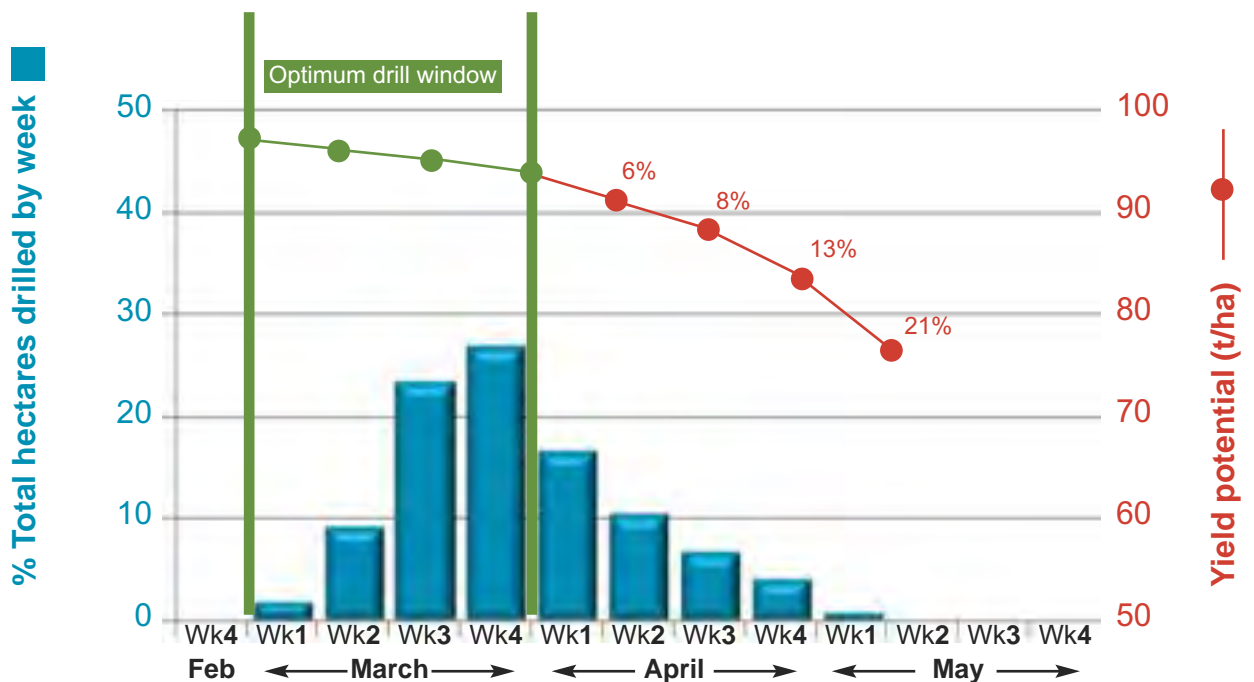


Source - Growers Crop Declaration data 2010 - 2016

Land should be prepared in advance of drilling, ensuring a level seedbed and good soil structure. A poor uneven seedbed can lead to yield loss through reduced establishment and increased harvester losses.

Pay particular attention to soil temperature. Seed germination will start where soil temperatures are above 3°C but will be slow below 5°C. Germination can be adversely affected if heavy rainfall occurs within 48 hours of drilling.

# The effect of drilling date on adjusted yield



Source - Growers Crop Declaration data 2011 - 2016

The rate of decline in yield potential increases as drilling moves into April.