

# The role of major nutrients in oilseed rape

Oilseed rape has high nutrient demands to drive leaf growth in autumn and support flowering, pod fill and seed quality in spring. Getting the right nutrients, in the right balance, at the right time is key to strong healthy crops. Test your soil, plan ahead and apply nutrients to match crop needs throughout the growing period.

## **N** Nitrogen

- Drives leaf and stem growth, building a healthy green canopy
- Helps keep the green canopy active for longer, supporting seed filling and final yield
- N demand highest in spring (late Feb to March/April) during rapid spring stem extension and canopy development before flowering

✓ Essential for strong growth and yield

## **S** Sulphur

- Essential for oil formation and protein production
- Supports nitrogen use efficiency and improves yield
- Apply little and often alongside spring N applications, according to requirements

✓ Vital for oil synthesis and higher yields

## **P** Phosphorus

- Essential for plant energy storage, transfer and growth
- Supports establishment, strong root development and overwintering
- Timing essential: required in the seedbed at drilling or immediately post drilling

✓ Strong roots early, better yields later

## **B** Boron

- Important for root development, shoot growth and stem extension
- Crucial for flowering and required for pod set and seed formation
- Keep boron available through the key growth period (4-6 leaf to flowering)

✓ Good growth, successful flowering and seed formation

## **K** Potassium

- Regulates water use and improves tolerance to cold, frost and other stresses
- Supports vigorous growth and helps the plant use N efficiently
- Make sure K available before rapid spring growth

✓ Stronger plants, better seed yield

## **Mg** Magnesium

- Central component of chlorophyll to drive photosynthesis
- Helps plant capture sunlight and make energy, supporting a healthy green canopy
- Monitor the crop and apply Mg if required. Timing: 4-6 leaf through to stem extension

✓ Keeps leaves green and helps the crop turn sunlight into yield