

“Kaurakisa” – the Finnish Oat Yield Contest, 2024

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The Finnish Oat Yield Contest (“kaurakilpailu” or “kaurakisa” in Finnish) is organized by [Kaytannon Maamies magazine](#). This year, twenty farmers from all over Finland were chosen to participate. The Editorial staff of the magazine also participated with their own field, “KM Varjolahko”. We wanted to show our readers what looks like when we try to grow oats. And we were not that bad at all! We got a yield of 7,7 t/ha.



The original magazine article about Kaurakisa (in Finnish) is [here](#). The winner of the contest was Kimmo Polo (in the photo), a 45 year-old farmer living in Loimaa. He grew both ‘Avenue’, bred by Saatzuht Bauer, and ‘Jacky’, bred by Nordsaat. Combined yield was 8,592 t/ha (metric tons per hectare in 14 % moisture).

There are important quality factors oat mills and buyers want to measure, such as Hectolitre weight (HLP; mass of grain in kilograms per 100 litres) and the presence of Fusarium toxins (DON, T2/HT2). We analyzed those and many other traits, like grain size (TKW; thousand kernel weight) and the amount of thins (material passing through a 2 millimeter sieve). Finnish oats have relatively high hectolitre weights and big, bright, and good-looking kernels.

This season was very hot. Planting started at the beginning of May. There was still snow cover in April, and it got very warm right after that. There was almost no rain in May, but it got very rainy in June, which is usually the driest month of the year. The oats didn’t make as many tillers as expected. Grain number on the main shoot was low because the weather was so hot, and the kernels were smaller than usual. There were problems with toxins in some areas of Finland.

The oats built up lots of biomass but the harvest index was low. We don’t know the reason for that. The yields were measured in one hectare areas by farm advisers.

The biggest oat yield measured during one of these contests was measured in 2016. Riku Olli, from Mynämäki, achieved yields of 8,8 t/ha. The biggest oat plot yields ever measured in Finland were seen by Yara (a fertilizer company) on their experimental farm. They achieved 11-12 t/ha.

More information about Finnish oats can be found [in this document](#).