

One of the keys to collecting consistent, high-quality research data is ensuring that assessments are conducted at the right times throughout a trial.



The **Rating Timing** feature in ARM helps organize assessment schedules, simplifies repeated evaluations, and automates data collection setup.

In this tutorial, you'll learn:

- What Rating Timings are
- How to assign Rating Timings to assessments
- How Standard Evaluations use Rating Timings
- How Build Headers automatically creates assessment columns
- Best practices for improving consistency across your trials

What are Rating Timings?

ARM uses **Rating Timings** to define *when* each assessment should be collected. You'll find the **Rating Timing** field in the **Assessment Editor**. ARM includes built-in timing codes that represent the sequence of assessment events throughout the trial.

These codes range from:

- **A1 through A9**
- **AA through AZ**

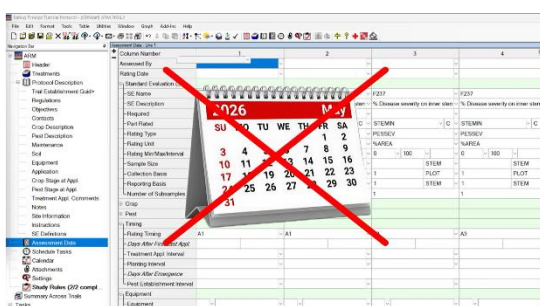
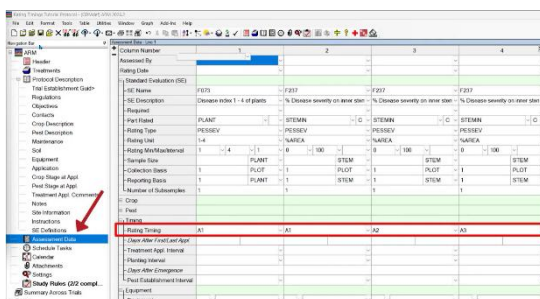
Together, they represent the first through thirty-fifth assessment events.

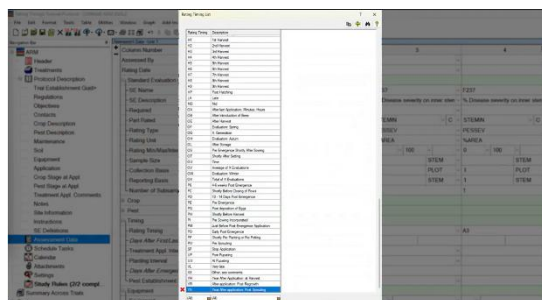
One important point to remember: These codes do **not** represent calendar dates. Instead, they simply identify the order in which assessments occur during the trial.

For example:

- A1 represents the first assessment event.
- A2 represents the second.
- A3 represents the third.

And so on.



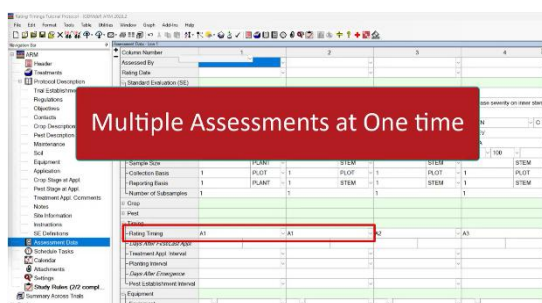


Event-Specific Rating Timings

ARM also includes Rating Timing codes related to important trial events, such as:

- Emergence
- Treatment applications
- Harvest
- And other commonly used field operations.

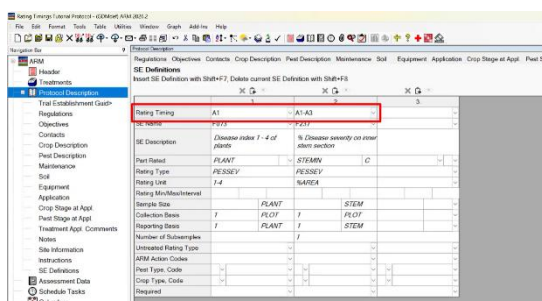
Using event-specific timings makes your protocols easier to understand and provides additional flexibility when organizing assessments.



Often, several different assessments are collected during the same field visit. These should be assigned the same Rating Timing code. This clearly indicates to ARM and everyone working on the trial that these assessments occur during the same visit.

Rating Timings and Standard Evaluations

Rating Timings become even more powerful when used with **Standard Evaluations**, or SEs. If your trial includes repeated measurements throughout the season, you don't need to create each assessment individually. Instead, open the SE Definitions tab in the Site Description. Here you can assign one or more Rating Timings directly to the SEs utilized in the trial.



For example:

- If an evaluation is collected only during the first assessment event, enter: **A1**
- If an evaluation is repeated during the first, second, and third assessment events, enter: **A1-A3**

This tells ARM to repeat the same SE at each of those assessment timings. This approach reduces duplicate setup while ensuring consistency across repeated observations.

Automatically Build Assessment Headers

After assigning Rating Timings to your Standard Evaluations, ARM can automatically build your assessment columns. Simply click **Build Headers**. ARM creates a separate assessment column for every Rating Timing assigned to each Standard Evaluation.

For example...

Suppose you have a Standard Evaluation called **Disease Severity** with Rating Timings of:

A1 through A3.

After selecting **Build Headers**, ARM automatically creates three assessment columns:

- Disease Severity – A1
- Disease Severity – A2
- Disease Severity – A3

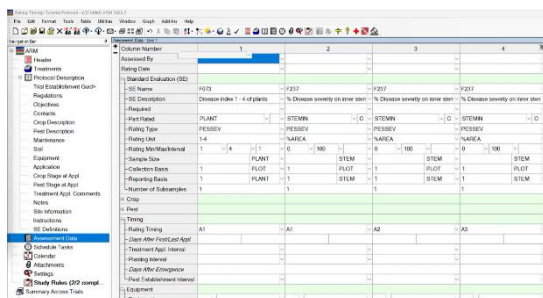
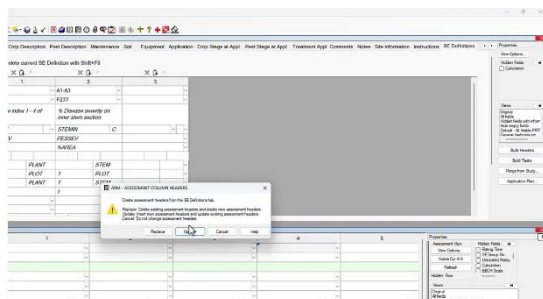
There's no need to manually create individual assessment columns. This saves time during trial setup and helps ensure every repeated assessment is configured consistently. As your protocols become larger and more complex, this automation becomes an even greater time saver.

Let's quickly review.

Rating Timings allow you to:

- Organize assessments according to trial events.
- Use built-in timing codes for the first through thirty-fifth assessment events.
- Schedule assessments around key trial events such as emergence, applications, and harvest.
- Assign the same timing to assessments collected together.
- Repeat Standard Evaluations across multiple assessment events.
- Automatically generate assessment columns using Build Headers.

Together, these tools help streamline trial setup, improve consistency, and simplify data collection throughout the growing season.



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Rating Timings benefits:

- Streamline trial setup
- Improve consistency
- Simplify data collection

 ARM Rating Timings

Rating Timings may seem like a small feature, but they provide a powerful way to organize assessments and automate repetitive trial setup.

Whether you're managing a simple efficacy study or a large multi-location research program, using Rating Timings can save time, reduce errors, and make your trials easier to manage.

Be sure to check out our other ARM tutorial videos for more tips on getting the most from your agricultural research software.