ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration: No & Type of Engines: Year of Manufacture: Date & Time (UTC): Location: Type of Flight: Persons on Board: Injuries: Nature of Damage: Commander's Licence: Commander's Age:

Information Source:

Synopsis

On landing the pilot raised the nose of the aircraft sufficiently for the tail to contact the ground. As a result he was unable to steer the aircraft properly, resulting in it departing the runway and causing the right gear to collapse.

History of the flight

The pilot made an uneventful approach to the landing strip, using three stages of flap. On touchdown he kept the nose of the aircraft high to protect the nosewheel from any ruts or bumps on the grass surface. At a speed of about 20-25 mph the aircraft started to drift to the left which the pilot attempted to correct by applying right rudder, but the pedal was "stiff and incompliant". The aircraft continued to the left, the left wing tip clipping a

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Dynamic WT9 UK Dynamic, G-JFDI	
1 Rotax 912-UL piston engine	
2007	
23 May 2009 at 1600 hrs	
Kimbolton Airstrip, Cambridgeshire	
Private	
Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Crew - None	Passengers - None
Damage to right flap; right landing gear collapsed	
National Private Pilot's Licence	
59 years	
88 hours (of which 45 were on type) Last 90 days - 9 hours Last 28 days - 5 hours	

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

rape crop growing adjacent to the strip, swinging it still further to the left. This caused the aircraft to depart the airstrip, collapsing the right landing gear.

Cause

The pilot stated that he normally landed with only two stages of flap and that he usually operated from a concrete runway. This contributed to him raising the nose more than usual on landing, sufficient for the tail skid to contact the ground. The skid had then dug into the ground allowing the lower part of the rudder to contact the grass. The aircraft has a steerable nosewheel which operates through the rudder pedals, but by restricting the rudder's movement, as in this case, the pilot's ability to steer the aircraft was significantly affected.