Recommended Varieties of Winter Oilseed Rape

Introduction

Recommendations in this leaflet are based on data collected as part of the HGCA Recommended Lists’ system. The full data collected and the HGCA Recommended Lists are available on the HGCA website (www.hgca.com). The fully recommended varieties in the table have been grown in at least 11 trials at Elgin, Aberdeen, Kinross, Edinburgh, The Borders and North Yorkshire.

Location of 2015 harvested trials are shown on the map. Trials for the 2015 harvest have been sown in Angus, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and Teeside.

Varieties are listed in order of gross output. Varieties fully recommended for the North Region come first in the table followed by those in their second and first year of recommendation.

In the first year, entry onto the list is generally based on all UK data but for the second year, the decision is usually based on north UK data. Growers should be aware that varieties new to the list are not all suited to northern growing conditions.

The data on disease in Scotland are supplemented by data from England (and Wales).

Classification of Varieties

With the exception of the HEAR and specialist oil varieties, all varieties listed in this leaflet are double low. Double low varieties are low in both erucic acid and glucosinolates. Glucosinolates are substances present in the meal. The meal is incorporated into animal feeds and high quantities of glucosinolate may affect animal performance adversely. Hybrid seed should not be home saved unless an agreement is made between the grower and breeder.
Notes on Table Characters

Yield

The yields are based on data from Scotland and the north of England. Some varieties have had fewer trials than others but statistical adjustment makes their means comparable. The relative yields of varieties fungicide treated are given in the table. The programme of fungicides is a comprehensive one aimed at keeping all diseases at minimal levels throughout the crop's life thus allowing maximum yield potential to be achieved. Although yield is important, other characteristics should also be considered. A standard seed rate based on thousand seed weight is used for all varieties in trial to allow direct comparison of yield. Current seed rates used in trials are 70 seeds per square metre. Actual seed rates adopted may be less than 70 and 100 seeds per square metre if conditions permit. Growers should note that some varieties are often sold in hectare packs where the seed number may differ considerably from those used in the trials. Where commercial crops are sown at lower seed rates, then the stem stiffness rating will improve.

Oil content

A high oil content is desirable as processors pay a premium or make a deduction according to the level in the seed. The adjustment for oil content varies but is usually in the region of 1.5% value/tonne for each 1% above or below 40%. Oil contents are presented in the table.

Gross Output

Gross output provides a measure of economic output performance by adjusting the value of the fungicide treated yield relative to the control varieties, according to the premium paid for oil content.

Glucosinolates

Glucosinolate levels in seed have been assessed in all fungicide treated trials. As factors other than variety influence glucosinolate levels growers will not necessarily produce seed with levels identical to those in the table.

Earliness of maturity

On average, the difference between the earliest and the latest maturing varieties is about 8 days. Under Scottish conditions, early maturing varieties should be given preference in order to avoid the deterioration in weather conditions which often occurs towards the end of the summer.

Height and stem stiffness

Crop height figures are presented in centimetres taller (+) or shorter (-) than the mean of all varieties listed. Stem stiffness is presented on a 1-9 scale, the higher figure indicating stiffer stems. This assessment was conducted at the pod development stage. True lodging is undesirable at any stage of growth but can be particularly damaging at flowering. However, some degree of leaning may be beneficial at harvest, as this tends to minimise shedding losses particularly if the crop is desiccated.

Disease resistance

Oilseed rape is susceptible to a number of diseases. Information on varietal resistance to light leaf spot and stem canker is presented in the table. The ratings are derived from assessment of natural infection in field trials and additional laboratory tests for canker and light leaf spot. For other diseases such as Alternaria and Sclerotinia there is little variation in resistance.
Light leaf spot (*Pyrenopeziza brassicae*)

This disease is seen as pale green or bleached blotches on the leaves surrounded by a ‘spray deposit’ of white spores. Frost injury and nitrogen fertiliser scorch may produce similar lesions but never the spore droplets around the outside of the blotch. Light leaf spot infected areas are brittle and more easily cracked when the leaf is bent over. Light leaf spot infection occurs from November onwards and can also affect the stems, flower buds and pods. It is favoured by cool, wet conditions and is the most damaging disease of oilseed rape in Scotland. It can cause large yield reductions if not controlled.

Phoma leaf spot and stem canker (*Leptosphaeria maculans*: asexual stage *Phoma lingam*)

This disease may be seen from October onwards as light green to fawn leaf spots (up to 15 mm in diameter) bearing numerous black pin-head sized fruiting bodies (pycnidia). These infections do little damage but provide inoculum to infect the stems. From spring onwards the stem canker phase of the disease may be seen as lesions on the stem with prominent dark brown or black margins and fawn coloured centres containing tiny black dots - the pycnidia. The cankers may girdle the stems causing lodging and premature ripening of the crop with consequent severe loss of yield. Selection of varieties with a high resistance is the most satisfactory method of overcoming this disease.

Notes on Winter Oilseed Rape Varieties. Scottish Recommended List 2016

Recommended for general use and ranked in order of Gross Output in 2015 RL trials in the north region.

**Anastasia** *(Limagrain / Limagrain UK)*  
A consistent high yielding conventional variety with a gross output of 107% across the RL sites in 2015 and a long term average of 110%. On the agronomics Anastasia is relatively short, stiff straw with moderate light leaf spot resistance although can be late maturity. A popular variety in 2015 it is still recommended for 2016.

**Campus** *(KWS)*  
Campus is high yielding conventional variety with yields on par with the hybrids. It was a bit erratic in performance in 2015 with gross outputs ranging from 101 to 114%. However with a long term average of 109% it is a good variety and worth staying on the list. On the agronomics Campus is a tall variety and late to mature so may not be suited for the North East of Scotland.

**Artoga** *(Limagrain / Limagrain UK)*  
A high yielding hybrid variety did well in 2014 with a Gross Output of 111% and interesting did well in 2013 which was a challenging year. It has outstanding hybrid vigour. An early maturing variety with good light leaf spot resistance but is on the tall side so needs growth regulation.

**Incentive** *(LSPB)*  
A hybrid variety it was promoted to the Scottish list in 2015, Incentive had a gross output of 104% in 2015 and 110% in 2014. Incentive is relatively short but stiff with medium maturity; average Light Leaf Spot resistance but poor for Stem Canker. It has a UK recommendation rather than specifically for the North, unlike the conventional variety Anastasia.

**SY Harnas** *(Syngenta)*  
New in 2015, SY Harnas is a hybrid with consistence performance with a mean of 105% in 2015 and a long term average of 111%. It is relatively short and stiff strawed and reasonable disease resistance. SY Harnas is good variety with an UK recommendation.

**V316 OL** *(Monsanto UK Ltd)*  
A high yielding restored hybrid for specialised High Oleic Low Linolenic (HOLL) markets. With a Gross output of 106% in 2015 and 115% in 2014 and a four mean of 109 % it slipped a bit at two North sites in 2015 but is still a good barn filler, It has a very good set of agronomics. V316 OL is short, early with good disease resistance. Even if V316 OL fails to meet specification its yield should compensate.

**PT211** *(Dupont Pioneer/Dupont Pioneer)*  
A control variety on the RL list but is under review. PT211 had a consistent performance across all the North sites in 2015. PT211 is potentially a very high yielding hybrid variety with an average gross output of 103% in 2015. It is a tall variety but has a good lodging resistance with moderate light leaf spot resistance.
Mentor *(LSPB)*
New on the Scottish list in 2015 Mentor is recommended for its club root tolerance with a higher yield potential to Cracker which is now out classed but still remains on the list for another year. A restored hybrid Mentor had a good year in 2015 of 104% and was consistent across all the North RL sites. Mentor has a good oil content and above average agronomics.

DK Exentiel *(DEKALB)*
A very inconsistence variety in both 2015 and 2014 RL trials. An average gross output of 102% hides a range of 112% at the St Boswells RL site to 87% in Fife. This compares to 123% in Aberdeenshire in 2014 to a low of 99% at the Fife site giving an average of 109% across the four Scottish sites in 2014 RL trials. On the plus side DK Exentiel is an early flowering, early maturity with a LLS rating of 6.

DK Explicit *(DEKALB)*
A restored hybrid. A variety for the north only. DK Explicit performed well across Scottish sites in 2015 with a gross output of 102% and a long term average of 109%. DK Explicit is taller than SY Harnas with a similar maturity and a point off on LLS resistance.

Vision
A conventional variety only remains on the Scottish RL because it a control variety. It had an average gross output of 99% across the north RL sites in 2015.

DK Imagis CL *(DEKALB)*
A Clear Field variety. It did not have a good year in 2015 with a mean gross output of 96%. It has reasonable agronomics and is only grown where charlock and shepherds purse are a real problem. Note Clear Field varieties should only be grown where any volunteers can be controlled by means other than ALS inhibitor herbicides.

Troy *(LSPB/DSV UK)*
Troy is under review for the Scottish RL. It is a not a particularly high yielding hybrid variety but for those who want a stiff strawed semi-dwarf with easy of combining then it is the only one on the Scottish RL list.

Cracker *(LSPB/LSPB)*
Cracker is loosing it’s position to the new comer Mentor for club root resistance in terms of yield and gross output with a mean gross output of only 90% in 2015. Although it has an official Light Leaf Spot rating of 7; in practice this has slipped and can not be relied upon. It will be retained on the Scottish RL list for planting in 2016 but is becoming out classed.

Newly Recommended Varieties for promotion to the Recommended List in 2016 (P1s)

Alizze *(RAGT)*
A restored hybrid Alizze is a high yielder with consistent yields and an average gross output of 107% across the north RL sites in 2015 and a long term average of 111% It has a UK wide recommendation with good agronomics including a 7 for light leaf spot resistance. Certainly a variety to try in 2016.

V324 OL *(Monsanto UK Ltd)*
A restored hybrid for specialised the High Oleic Low Linolenic (HOLL) markets. A very high yielding variety in this market on par with V316 OL There is very little to choose between the two varieties.

Barbados *(Momont, France)*
A conventional variety with a gross output in 2015 of 105% and a long term average of 110%. Barbados is as good as most hybrids. It is a consistent variety with good agronomics and a north recommendation. Its only weakness is it is on the late side for maturity so may not be a candidate for the NE of Scotland but certainly worth trying in 2016.

Nikita *(Limagrain Europe SA)*
A conventional variety with a gross output of 105% and a long term average 110% Nikita is a consistent variety with a north recommendation with good all round agronomics including a 7 for light leaf spot resistance. Again one to try in 2016.
Amalie (Limagrain Europe SA)
A conventional variety that is recommended for its TuYV resistance. It is not particularly high yielding with a mean gross output of 98% in 2015. Amalie has average agronomics with no weaknesses and a UK recommendation.

**Description of Specialist Oil Type Varieties**

A number of specialist oil varieties of oilseed rape are available. Growers should note that these should only be grown under contract. Data for these varieties are limited as they are not included in the full official variety testing programme used for conventional varieties. The descriptions given below are derived from private trials and breeder reports and are intended as a general guide for growers. This list is not exhaustive - other options may exist.

**Winter High Erucic Acid Rape (HEAR) Varieties**

The oil of such varieties contains a high content of erucic acid (around 50 – 55%) which has several industrial uses. The following varieties are available:

- **Palmedor** (LS Plant Breeding / KWS)
  A high erucic restored hybrid variety with yields similar to double low varieties and moderate resistance to light leaf spot. It has stiff straw and moderate maturity.

- **Eraton** (LS Plant Breeding / KWS)
  A high erucic variety with yields similar to double low varieties and a very high oil content. Good stem stiffness and early maturity.

**UK Descriptive List of Spring Swede Oilseed Rape 2015**

Notes on Spring Swede Oilseed Rape Varieties.

Data here is presented as a Descriptive List utilising data from across the UK. Northern growers should be aware that later maturing varieties may present unacceptable harvest risks in late seasons. Varieties are listed below according to maturity (with the earliest noted first) in order to emphasise this important feature for North UK. Seed availability for some of these varieties may be limited so it may be just taking what is on offer from seed merchants.

- **Tamarin** (Lantmannen SW Seed / Senova)
  A high yielding conventional variety with early maturity and stiff straw.

- **Belinda** (Bayer Crop Science Raps / Bayer Crop Science)
  A high yielding hybrid variety with average maturity and stiff straw.

- **Delight** (Bayer Crop Science Raps / Bayer Crop Science)
  A high yielding hybrid variety with good oil content, average maturity and stiff straw.

- **Amulet** (Lantmannen SW Seed / Senova)
  A high yielding conventional variety, good oil content. Tall but very stiff straw.
## SRUC Recommended Winter Oilseed Rape Varieties 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year first listed</th>
<th>Variety Type</th>
<th>Gross Output 2012-2015</th>
<th>Fungicide treated 2012-2015</th>
<th>Oil Content %</th>
<th>Glucosinolate Content micromoles/</th>
<th>Maturity 1 to 9</th>
<th>Height cm plus taller minus shorter</th>
<th>Stem Stiffness 1 to 9</th>
<th>Light Leaf Spot</th>
<th>Stem Canker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015 P2</td>
<td>SY Harnas RH</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013 R</td>
<td>Anastasia Conv</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>44.3</td>
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<td>-3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>PT211 RH</td>
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<td>103</td>
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<td>2016 C</td>
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<td>107</td>
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<td>2016 C</td>
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<td>109</td>
<td>44.9</td>
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<td>2016 C</td>
<td>Nikita CONV</td>
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Average LSD [5 %]

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<tr>
<th>RH</th>
<th>Restored hybrid</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conv</td>
<td>Conventional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Semi-dwarf variety</td>
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</table>

Notes: Based on North UK Region trials 2009 - 2012 2012-2015

Yields expressed as a percentage of the mean of the treated controls Vision, PR46W21, and DK Cabernet

100 = 5.0t/ha

Data from the HGCA Recommended List, full data set at http://www.AHDB.com
## UK Descriptive List of Spring Swede Oilseed Rape 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year first listed</th>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Variety Type</th>
<th>Gross Output</th>
<th>Seed Yield as % of Controls</th>
<th>Oil Content %</th>
<th>Maturity 1 to 9</th>
<th>Shortness of stem 1 to 9</th>
<th>Standing Ability 1 to 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Tamarin</td>
<td>Conv</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>43.5</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Belinda</td>
<td>RH C</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>96</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Flower</td>
<td>C RH</td>
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<td>99</td>
<td>46.7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mirakel</td>
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<td>106</td>
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<td>ND</td>
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<td>Builder</td>
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<td>103</td>
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<td>Delight*</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Doktrin</td>
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<td>105</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td>[5]</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                 | Average LSD (5%) | 6.3 | 6.0 | 0.6 | 2.2 | 0.3 | 0.6 |

Varities no longer on the list include Carnival, Heros, Dylan, Kumily and Shelley

Notes: Based on data from UK trials 2010 - 2015
Yields are expressed as a percentage of the mean of controls, Heros, Kumily and Delight 100 = 2.6 t/ha [20.7cwt/ac]
Data from the HGCA Recommended List, full database at http://www.ahdb.com

[ ] Limited data
P1 First year of listing
P2 Second year of listing
Conv Conventional variety
RH Restored Hybrid
* Not selected for further trials
ND No Data
C Candidates
New Varieties

Less data is available for new varieties especially the most recently listed P1 material.

**Mirakel** *(DSV United Kingdom)*
A restored hybrid with a step above on yield. A consistent high yielder with the benefit of early maturity. One to grow.

**Builder** *(Bayer Crop Science)*
Another high yielding restored hybrid with slightly higher oil content than Mirakel. Similar maturity to Mirakel. One to grow.

**Simba** *(Lantmanmen SW Seed, Sweden)*
Good yields from limited data. The UK agent is Senova (www.senova.uk.com)

Spring Turnip Oilseed Rape

Spring turnip rape is a small seeded, vigorously growing spring sown oilseed rape, which matures at least two weeks earlier than most of the more widely grown spring swede rape types. This can be a major advantage in late seasons.

Turnip rape is less sensitive to sowing date than swede rape. It is very resilient to adverse conditions at harvest and has been successfully combined direct without swathing or the application of a desiccant. It does however seem to be particularly sensitive to pollen beetles. Spring turnip rape varieties generally yield less than spring swede varieties but because of low growing costs the margin may be equivalent.

The variety SW Petita from Senova has been available in recent times but variety choice is currently very limited and seed is in short supply.

For further information

consult your local SRUC office or oilseed rape specialists at:

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SRUC is grateful for the use of HGCA Recommended List Data

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