



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Great Britain and Northern Ireland Variety List Trials: Trial Procedures for Official Examination of Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) Harvest 2025

Forage and grain maize

Appendices

April 2024

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Changes

Appendix 1 – Approved Trial Organisers and Operators

Activity	Organisers/Operators Responsible
VCU Trials Organiser	BSPB
VCU Growing Trial Operators	NIAB Hunt Agri Services Ltd Limagrain UK Ltd Grainseed Ltd
Seed Handling Operator	NIAB
Trial Inspection and Technical Validation Operator	NIAB
Quality Testing Operators	Growing Trial Operators for Dry Matter. NIAB for additional tests
Trial Design and Data Handling Operator	NIAB
Data Review and Standard Setting Operator	NIAB

Appendix 2 – Seed treatments for use on NL trials

Seed to be provided untreated unless treated seed is specifically requested by the trials organiser (BSPB), in which case only the specified treatment may be applied and must be clearly recorded on the seed label and accompanying documentation.

Appendix 3 – Seed despatch deadline dates

VCU seed must be delivered to the Seed Handling Operator by 15 February.

Appendix 4 – VCU Growing Trial Operators and trial locations

1. Growing Trial Operators and Seed Handling Operator

Forage maize

Growing Trial Operators	Seed Handling Operator (if not trial operator)	Location of Trial
NIAB		Somerset
NIAB		Devon
Hunt Agri Services Ltd	NIAB	Cheshire
Hunt Agri Services Ltd	NIAB	Gloucestershire
Grainseed Ltd	NIAB	Wiltshire
Limagrain UK Ltd	NIAB	Nottinghamshire

Grain maize

Growing Trial Operators	Seed Handling Operator (if not trial operator)	Location of Trial
NIAB		TBA following an application

2. Pathology Trial Operator

Pathology Trial Operator	Location of Trial
Not applicable	Not applicable

Appendix 5 – Control Varieties for VCU Assessments

Forage Maize

- Prospect
- Bonnie
- Liroyal
- Smoothi CS
- Conclusion
- KWS Pasco

Grain Maize

To be agreed following an application.

Appendix 6 – Dates for Submission of Data

Dates by which Records should be sent to Data Handling Operator

Record	Latest date of receipt by Trials Organiser
Site data part 1 and site sketch	One month after drilling
Site data part 2	31 July
Plot records (in approved electronic format)	Immediately

Appendix 7 – Disease Assessment Key

Leaf diseases

Instructions	
1	Examine all leaves in 3 areas of each plot.
2	Include all necrosis and chlorosis attributable to disease to be assessed.
3	Estimate % infection using the description below, interpolating values if necessary.
4	Record the average % infection from the 3 areas.

Infection Disease Severity Description	
0	No infection observed
0.1	Older leaves with a trace of infection, other leaves uninfected.
1	Older leaves with up to 10% infection, other leaves largely uninfected.
5	Older leaves with up to 25% infection, middle aged leaves with a trace of infection.
10	Older and middle aged leaves with up to 25% infection, young leaves largely uninfected.
25	Leaves of all ages appear 50% infected 50% green on average.
50	Leaves of all ages appear more infected than green on average.
75	Very little green tissues left.
100	No green tissue left.

Appendix 8 – Herbicide Usage for Forage Maize Variety List Trials

Use approved herbicides/pesticides according to current legislation

The following sole active ingredients must not be used in trials:

- Rimsulfuron (example product Titus)

The following active ingredient may only be used in trials after consultation and with the permission of the Trials Organiser:

- Nicosulfuron (example product Samson Extra)
- Mesotrione (example product Callisto)

If the Trials Operator has concerns over the use of any herbicide products not mentioned above, they should consult with the Trials Organiser.

In all cases trials should be closely monitored and if any crop damage is seen on any variety this must be recorded and reported to the Trials Organiser.



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The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government and Welsh Government.