Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

United Kingdom Variety List Trials: Trial Procedures for Official Examination of Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) Harvest 2026

Swede Appendices

April 2025

Changes since last version

- Updated year of document and date of last update
- Updated email link to national archives at end of document
- Updated NIAB abbreviation
- Updated Appendix 4

Contents

Appendix 1 – Approved Trial Organisers/ Operators for Swede

Activity	Organisers/Operators Responsible
Trial organiser	BSPB
Trial design and data Handling Operator	NIAB
Growing trial operators	SASA
Seed handling operator	NIAB
Trial inspection and technical validation operators	NIAB
Quality testing operator	SASA
Data review and standard setting operator	NIAB

Appendix 2 – Seed treatment products for use on VL trials

Approved seed dressings to be applied according to current regulations and must be approved by the Trials Organiser.

Appendix 3 – Seed despatch deadline dates for Swede

VCU seed must be delivered to the Seed Handling Operator by 15 February and to the VCU sample Authentication Centre by 1 March.

Appendix 4 – Growing Trial operators and Trial locations

Growing trial operator	Seed handling operator (if not trial operator)	Location of trial
SASA	NIAB	Edinburgh, Scotland

Appendix 5 – Control varieties for VCU assessments for Swede

The control varieties are:

- Ruta Øtofte
- Magres
- Helenor
- Gowrie

Appendix 6 – Dates for submission of records

6.1 To Trials Organiser

Record	Latest date of receipt by Trials Organiser
Site data part 1 (including site sketch)	Within 1 month of drilling trial
Site data part 2	By the time trial is harvested
Plot records (in approved electronic format)	Growing Trial Operator should notify Trials Organiser that trial has been harvested within 2 days of harvest

6.2 To Data Handling Operator

Record	Date
Plot records should be sent to Data Handling Operator	Within 10 days of record being taken

6.3 To Quality Testing Operator

Samples	Date
Plot samples for quality testing should be sent to Quality Testing Operator	Within 2 days of harvest

Appendix 7 – Growth stages of Swede

Stage	Growth Stage	Description
Germination and Emergence	00	Dry seed
Germination and Emergence	0 to 10	Germination and emergence through soil
Seedling growth	12	Elongation of emerging shoot
Seedling growth	15	Elongation and opening of cotyledons
Seedling growth	20	Cotyledons fully opened
Seedling growth	30	Cotyledons fully opened and full development of first true leaf
Seedling growth	40	Second leaf fully developed
Seedling growth	50	Third leaf fully developed and initial senescence of cotyledons
Seedling growth	60	Fourth leaf fully developed and partial senescence of cotyledons
Seedling growth	70	Fifth leaf fully developed and advanced senescence/drop of cotyledons
Seedling growth	80	Sixth leaf fully developed
Seedling growth	90	Seventh leaf fully developed; initial senescence of first true leaf in early cultivars
Seedling growth	100	Eighth leaf fully developed; 30 % senescence of first true leaf
Seedling growth	110	Ninth leaf fully developed; 60% senescence of first true leaf

Stage	Growth Stage	Description
Seedling growth	120	Tenth leaf fully developed; complete senescence and drop of first true leaf
Seedling growth	130	Eleventh leaf fully developed
Seedling growth	140	
Seedling growth	150	Few leaf scars becoming exposed on root ‘neck’
Seedling growth	160	
Seedling growth	170	
Seedling growth	180	Many leaf scars exposed on root ‘neck’
Root development	200	Slight swelling of the root at ground level
Root development	220	Development of a small swollen root above ground level
Root development	240	Swollen root medium
Root development	260	Root fully developed with no cork on skin
Root development	270	Root fully developed with 40% cork development on skin
Root development	280	Root fully developed with 80 to 100% cork development
Root development	290	Root flesh becoming pithy and fibrous
Root development	299	Root flesh fibrous and pithy
Flowering	400	First flower open on terminal raceme

Stage	Growth Stage	Description
Flowering	410	Few flowers are open on terminal raceme
Flowering	420	Full flowering: lower siliques are elongating
Flowering	450	Lower siliques are starting to fill, less than 5% of flower buds are not yet open
Flowering	470	Seeds in lower siliques are enlarging, all buds have opened

Appendix 8 – Assessment keys for Swede diseases

8.1 Leaf diseases

How to examine for leave diseases:

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

8.2 Infection disease severity description

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

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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.