



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 2026**

**Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*),  
Hair Vetch (*Vicia villosa*)  
Appendices**

**May 2025**

## Changes since last version

- Updated year of document and date of last update
- Updated Niab abbreviation shortcut
- Updated all references of NL to VL
- Updated proposal to the Appendix 3 – seed delivery deadline
- Updated changes to the Appendix 5 – control varieties for VCU assessment
- Updated email link to national archives at end of document

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## Appendix 1 – Approved Trial Organisers/ Operators for Common Vetch, Hairy Vetch

Activity	Organisers/Operators Responsible
Trials organiser	BSPB
Trial design and data handling operator	Niab
Growing trial operator	Niab
Seed handling operator	Niab
Trial inspection and technical validation operator	Niab
Quality testing operator	Niab
Data review and standard setting operator	Niab

## **Appendix 2 - Seed Treatment Products for use on VL Trials**

Approved products compliant with restrictions, manufacturer's guidance and Trials Organiser's approval.

## Appendix 3 - Seed Despatch Deadline

VCU seed must be delivered to the Seed Handler by 5 December for a spring sowing, 5 February for autumn sowing.

VCU seed must be delivered to the seed handler by the following dates:

- Hairy Vetch :15 December
- Common Vetch:29 November

## Appendix 4 – VCU Growing Trial Operators and Trial Locations for Vetch

Growing trial operator	Seed handling operator (if not trial operator)	Location of trial
Niab	Niab	North Yorkshire

## Appendix 5 – Control Varieties for VCU Assessments for Vetch

These are the control varieties for VCU Assessments for Vetch.

### **Winter Common vetch control:**

- CARELIE

### **Winter Hairy vetch control:**

- LATIGO

### **Spring Common vetch control:**

- CARAVELLE

### **Spring Hairy vetch control:**

- When application is received



## Appendix 6 - Dates by Which Records and Samples Should Be Submitted

### 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 Plot Records to Data Handling Operator

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

### 6.3 Plot Samples 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 - Assessment Keys for Vetch Diseases

### 7.1 Leaf diseases

Instructions:

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 descriptions in the 'Infection Disease Severity Description' table, interpolating values if necessary
4. Record the average % infection from the 3 areas

### 7.2 Infection Disease Severity Description

Time	Description of severity
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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