



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

Red Clover and Lucerne 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 3
- Updated Appendix 4
- Updated Appendix 5

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Appendix 1 – Approved Trial Organisers/Operators for Red Clover and Lucerne

Activity	Organisers/Operators responsible
Trial design and data handling operator	Niab for England and Wales BioSS for Scotland AFBI for Northern Ireland
Vcu trials organiser	BSPB for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland SASA for Scotland
Growing trial operator	DLF Seeds Ltd, DSV UK and Niab for England IBERS for Wales SASA and SRUC for Scotland AFBI for Northern Ireland
Seed handling operator	Niab
Pathology trial operator	Not applicable
Trial inspection operator	Niab and BSPB for England and Wales SASA and BSPB for Scotland AFBI and BSPB for Northern Ireland
Technical validation operator	Niab for England and Wales BioSS for Scotland AFBI for Northern Ireland

Activity	Organisers/Operators responsible
Quality Testing Operator	Niab
Data Review and Standard Setting Operator	Niab

Appendix 2 – Seed treatment products for use on VL trials

The seed treatment products to use are:

- *Rhizobium meliloti* inoculum for Lucerne.

Appendix 3 – Seed dispatch deadlines

VCU seed must be delivered to Seed Handling Operator by:

- For Red Clover: 10 January
- For Lucerne: 15 December

Appendix 4 - VCU Growing trials for Red Clover and Lucerne

Factor	Data
Minimum number of sowing years	Lucerne: 2 Red Clover: 2
Number of harvest years	Lucerne: 2 harvest years for first sowing and second sowing Red Clover: 3 harvest years for the first sowing and 2 harvest years for the second sowing
Number of trial sites	Lucerne: 1 Red Clover: 3
Number of replicates	Minimum of 3 in each trial
Ploidy groups	Diploid and tetraploid varieties of each group are grown in the same trial, but candidates are compared with the appropriate control variety. See Appendix 5
Trial regimes	As detailed in Section C.5. Maximum 5 cuts in sowing year. Conservation management in first and second harvest years (and third harvest year – red clover).
Number of control varieties	One for each ploidy

Appendix 5 – Control varieties

The control varieties for Red Clover are:

- Amos (Tetraploid control)
- AberClaret (Diploid control)

The control varieties for Lucerne:

- Daisy (VL2)
- Cigale (VL1)

Appendix 6 - Dates for submission of records and samples

6.1 To Data Handling Operator

Record	Latest date of receipt
Site data part 1 (including site sketch)	Within 2 weeks of sowing the trial
Site data part 2	Annually by end of November
Yield records	Electronically to the appropriate Data Handling Operator within 7 working days of each cut
Plot records (in approved electronic format)	Annually by end of November

6.2 To Quality Testing Operator

Sample type	Latest date
Quality testing – samples to be coarse milled	To Quality Testing Operator by 15 September
Quality testing – samples to be fine milled	To Quality Testing Operator by 15 September



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