



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

Forage Oats 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 Appendix 5
- Updated references of NL to VL
- Updated NIAB to Niab

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Scope

This document contains the appendices for the main guidance document:

Trial Procedures for Official Examination of Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) Harvest
2026 – Forage Oats

Appendix 1 – Approved Trial/Operators for forage Oats

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:

- Winter Sown Oats: 15 September
- Spring Sown Oats: 15 January

Appendix 4 – VCU Growing Trial Operators and trial locations for forage oats

Growing Trial Operator	Seed Handling Operator (if not trial operator)	Location of trial
Niab	Niab	Devon

Appendix 5 – Control varieties for VCU assessments for forage oats

The control varieties are:

- **Spring Forage Oat Controls:** To be confirmed upon application.
- **Winter Forage Oat Controls:** To be confirmed upon application.

Appendix 6 – dates by which records 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 forage oats diseases

7.1 Powdery mildew

% Infection	Infection by score (1 to 9)	Amount of infection
0	1	No infection observed
0.1	2	3 pustules per tiller
1	3	5 pustules per leaf
5	4	2 lower leaves appear $\frac{1}{4}$ infected
10	5	2 lower leaves appear $\frac{1}{2}$ infected
25	6	Leaves appear $\frac{1}{2}$ infected $\frac{1}{2}$ green
50	7	Leaves appear more infected than green
75	8	Very little green leaf tissue left
100	9	Leaves dead - no green tissue left

7.2 Crown rust

% Infection	Infection by score (1 to 9)	Amount of infection
0	1	No infection observed
0.1	2	1 small cluster of pustules per tiller
1	3	1 cluster per leaf
5	4	Most tillers infected but some top leaves uninfected
10	5	All leaves infected but leaves appear green overall
25	6	Leaves appear ½ infected ½ green
50	7	Leaves appear more infected than green
75	8	Very little green leaf tissue left
100	9	Leaves dead - no green tissue left

7.3 Oat mosaic virus

The severity can vary; thus, a weighted score can be used as follows:

% leaves with infection	Type of infection		
	Slight	Moderate	Severe
0	0	0	0
1	0.3	0.7	1
5	2	3	5
10	3	7	10
25	8	17	25
50	17	33	50
75	25	50	75
100	33	67	100

7.4 Barley yellow dwarf virus

The disease can be assessed visually as the percentage of leaves within a plot showing typical red, orange or yellow symptoms. Oats will typically show strong reddish or orange discolouration from the leaf tip downwards.



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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

webmaster@apha.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/apha

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.