



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

Soya Bean appendices

May 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 4
- Updated Appendix 5

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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 – Flax

Appendix 1 – Approved Trial Organisers/ Operators for soya bean

Activity	Organisers/Operators responsible
Trials organiser	BSPB
Seed handling operator	Niab
Trial design and data handling operator	Niab
Pathology trials operator	None
Trial inspection and technical validation operator	BSPB
Quality testing operator	Niab
Data review and standard setting operator	Niab

Appendix 2 – Approved seed treatment products

To be advised.

Appendix 3 – Seed despatch deadline dates

VCU seed must be delivered to each Growing Trials Operator/ Seed Handling Operator by 1 February.

Appendix 4 – Growing Trial Operators and trial locations

4.1 Growing Trial Operators/Seed Handling Operators

Growing Trial Operator	Seed Handling Operator (If not Trial Operator)	Location of trial
Niab	Niab and SHU	Cambridge

4.2 Pathology Trials Operator

None.

Appendix 5 – Control varieties for VCU assessments

The control varieties are:

- ES Comandor
- RGT Sigma

Appendix 6 – Dates by which records should be submitted

6.1 To Trials Organiser

Record	Latest date of receipt by Trials Operator
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 – Growth Stages of Soya Bean

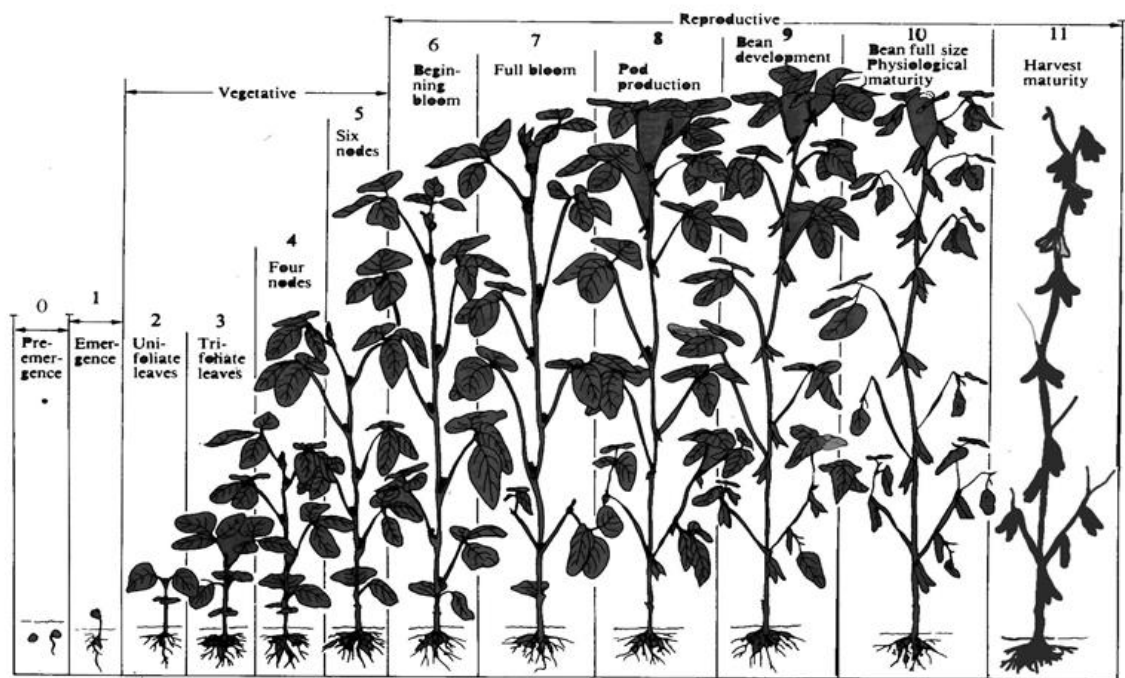


Fig. 8.2 Growth stages of soyabean – Courtesy FAO. Rome.

General description 345

Figure 1: Diagram illustrating the growth stages 0 to 11 of soyabean.

Appendix 8 – Assessment of soya bean diseases

8.1 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 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

Infection	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.

8.3 Other disease assessments

8.3.1 Stem canker

Stem canker may be assessed by examining 30 stems per plot. Stems should be pulled at random throughout the plot. Appropriate sampling times are usually from the middle of June onwards.

If sampling is not carried out prior to harvest, it must be done as soon as possible afterwards, within a maximum of 2 days.

The external symptoms only should be assessed by assigning stem base symptoms on each of the 30 stems to one of the following categories:

- 0 no infection observable
- 1 less than 25% girdling of the stem
- 2 26 to 50% girdling
- 3 51 to 75% girdling
- 4 76 to 100% girdling
- 5 100% girdling plus stem weakness
- 6 100% girdling plus stem death

Any records made should be submitted on the standard record sheet enclosed with this protocol as soon as they are made to the testing authority, showing clearly the number of plants per plot in each disease category. “Five bar gate” tally systems are most appropriate. A disease index (DI) on a 0 to 100 scale will be calculated by the Information Technology and Statistics Department at NIAB using the formula:

$$\frac{(0xa + 1xb + 2xc) \times 100}{(a + b + c = \text{etc}) \quad 6}$$

Where a, b, c etc are the number of plants in each disease category.



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