



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

Minor Crop: Annual Ryegrass (Westerwolds) Appendices

September 2025

Changes since last version

- No changes since last version

Contents

Appendix 1 – Approved Trial Organisers/ Operators for Annual Ryegrass	1
Appendix 2 – Seed treatment products for use on NL trials.....	2
Appendix 3 – Seed despatch deadline	3
Appendix 4 – VCU Growing Trial Operators and trial locations for Annual Ryegrass	4
Appendix 5 – Control varieties for VCU assessments for Annual Ryegrass	5
Appendix 6 – Dates by which records should be submitted.....	6
6.1 To Trials Organiser.....	6
6.2 Plot records to Data Handling Operator	6
6.3 Plot samples to Quality Testing Operator.....	6
Appendix 7 – Assessment keys for annual ryegrass diseases	7
7.1 Maturity class	8

Appendix 1 – Approved Trial Organisers/ Operators for Annual Ryegrass

Activity	Organisers/Operators Responsible
Trials Organiser	BSPB
Trial Design and Data Handling Operator	Niab
Growing Trial Operator	DSV
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 NL trials

The treatment products are:

- 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 5th February.

Appendix 4 – VCU Growing Trial Operators and trial locations for Annual Ryegrass

Growing Trial Operator	Seed Handling Operator (If not Trial Operator)	Location of Trial
Niab	DSV	Gloucestershire

Appendix 5 – Control varieties for VCU assessments for Annual Ryegrass

The control varieties are:

- Peleton
- Jivet

Appendix 6 – Dates by which records should be submitted

6.1 To Trials Organiser

Latest date of receipt by Trials Organiser	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 Annual Ryegrass diseases

The control varieties are:

Early Perennial Ryegrass

- Glasker (D)
- Genesis (D)
- AberTorce (T)
- Boyne (Common)
- Merifest (for festulolium)

Intermediate Perennial Ryegrass

- Glasker (D) (Common)
- AberTorch (T) (Common)
- Boyne (D)
- Dunluce (T)
- AberMagic (D)
- Drumbo (D) (Common)
- Glenstal (T) NL2
- Seago (T) NL1
- AberBite (T) (Common)

Late Perennial Ryegrass

- Drumbo (D)
- AberChoice (D)
- Twymax (T) NL2
- Meiduno (T) NL1
- AberBite (T)
- Dunluce (Common)
- AberMagic (Common)

Hybrid ryegrass

- Pirol (D)
- Solid (T) NL2
- Astoncrusader (T) NL1
- AberEcho (T)

Italian ryegrass

- Muriello (D)
- Alamo (D)
- Hunter (T)

Timothy

- Comer (Early)
- Motim (Int)

Meadow Fescue

- Merifest

Tall Fescue

- Dulcia
- Sparta
- Lidacta

7.1 Maturity class

The applicant must allocate varieties to the correct heading group for perennial ryegrass and Timothy trials. The heading date of each candidate is checked as part of DUS testing procedures and candidates will have to re-start VCU tests and trials if they head more than four days outside the allocated group.

The heading group classification used is as follows:

7.1.1 PRG

Heading Group	Classification
Early heading group	Heading date earlier than or equal to Lilora.
Intermediate heading group	Heading date later than Lilora but earlier than Barplus.
Late heading group	Heading date equal to or later than Barplus.

7.1.2 Timothy

Heading Group	Classification
Early heading group	Heading date earlier than Motim.
Late heading group	Heading date equal to or later than Motim.



© Crown copyright 2025

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.3. To view this licence visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/ or email PSI@nationalarchives.gov.uk

Data Protection:

For information on how we handle personal data visit www.gov.uk and search Animal and Plant Health Agency Personal Information Charter.

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

webmaster@apha.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/apha

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.