

Research and analysis: Science landscape seminar: space, satellites and astronomy

Report of a seminar on space, satellites and astronomy research in the UK.

Research and analysis: Science landscape seminar: meteorology and climate science

Report of a seminar on climate science research in the UK.

Form: Plant varieties: technical questionnaires

Updated: Technical questionnaire (field bean) has been updated.

An application for plant breeder's rights and National Listing of agricultural and vegetable crops must include:

- a completed, signed, application form
- a completed technical questionnaire for the particular species, including a confidential section if required
- application fee and completed remittance advice slip for plant breeders' rights
- application fee and completed remittance advice slip for National Listing

A colour photograph showing the representative features of the variety must also be provided with plant breeders' rights applications for ornamentals.

Detailed guide: VCU protocols and procedures for testing agricultural crops

Updated: Procedures for 2019 harvest, Winter oilseed rape document updated

As part of the application process to add an agricultural crop to the National List, the plant must be tested to confirm whether the variety has satisfactory value for cultivation or use (VCU).

The growing trials for all crops, except potatoes, are organised by the British Society of Plant Breeders (BSPB). The trials for potatoes are organised by Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA).

These trials are normally carried out for a minimum of 2 years, comparing the performance of candidate varieties with varieties already on the National Lists.

The trials use the VCU protocols and procedures approved by the Plant Variety and Seeds Committee, which represents the national authorities on seed issues to establish VCU.

Protocols

Crops

- [Cereals \(wheat, barley, oats, triticale, rye, spelt wheat\)](#)
(PDF, 119KB, 15 pages)
- [Field beans](#)
(PDF, 96.3KB, 11 pages)
- [Field peas](#)
(PDF, 96.1KB, 10 pages)
- [Forage and grain maize](#)
(PDF, 118KB, 11 pages)
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[Grasses \(perennial, Italian and hybrid ryegrass, timothy and festulolium\)](#)

(PDF, 57.5KB, 12 pages)

-

[Minor crops](#)

(PDF, 69.2KB, 19 pages)

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[Red clover and lucerne](#)

(PDF, 118KB, 12 pages)

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[Potato](#)

(PDF, 104KB, 9 pages)

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[Spring oilseed rape](#)

(PDF, 102KB, 10 pages)

-

[Sugar beet](#)

(PDF, 39.6KB, 8 pages)

-

[White clover](#)

(PDF, 49.8KB, 10 pages)

-

[Winter oilseed rape](#)

(PDF, 39.5KB, 11 pages)

Trials

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[Trial inspection and data validation](#)

(PDF, 62.7KB, 3 pages)

-

[Test, trial design and data handling](#)

(PDF, 60.9KB, 3 pages)

-

[Data review, standard setting and decision making](#)
(PDF, 129KB, 4 pages)

Procedures – for 2019 harvest

- [Field peas](#)
(PDF, 682KB, 30 pages)
- [Spring oilseed rape](#)
(PDF, 233KB, 25 pages)
- [Winter oilseed rape](#)
(PDF, 405KB, 33 pages)

Minor crops

- [Minor crops introduction](#)
(PDF, 140KB, 4 pages)
- [Linseed](#)
(PDF, 350KB, 23 pages)
- [Mustard](#)
(PDF, 236KB, 21 pages)
- [Soya bean](#)
(PDF, 270KB, 22 pages)
- [Spring lupin](#)
(PDF, 203KB, 22 pages)
- [Sunflower](#)
(PDF, 196KB, 21 pages)

Procedures – for 2018 harvest

- [Cereals \(wheat, barley, oats, triticale, rye, spelt wheat\)](#)
(PDF, 547KB, 57 pages)
- [Field beans](#)
(PDF, 381KB, 33 pages)
- [Field peas](#)
(PDF, 644KB, 31 pages)
- [Forage and grain maize](#)
(PDF, 265KB, 30 pages)
- [Grasses \(perennial, Italian and hybrid ryegrass, tall and meadow fescue, timothy and festulolium\)](#)
(PDF, 371KB, 36 pages)
- [Potato](#)
(PDF, 429KB, 28 pages)
- [Red clover and lucerne](#)
(PDF, 222KB, 24 pages)
- [Spring oilseed rape](#)
(PDF, 234KB, 25 pages)
- [Sugar beet](#)
(PDF, 234KB, 29 pages)
- [White clover](#)
(PDF, 230KB, 26 pages)

- [Winter oilseed rape](#)
(PDF, 441KB, 33 pages)

Minor crops

- [Minor crops introduction](#)
(PDF, 140KB, 4 pages)
- [Fodder kale](#)
(PDF, 193KB, 21 pages)
- [Forage rape](#)
(PDF, 194KB, 21 pages)
- [Forage rye](#)
(PDF, 193KB, 20 pages)
- [Linseed](#)
(PDF, 348KB, 23 pages)
- [Mustard](#)
(PDF, 236KB, 21 pages)
- [Soya bean](#)
(PDF, 271KB, 22 pages)
- [Spring lupin](#)
(PDF, 204KB, 22 pages)
- [Sunflower](#)
(PDF, 196KB, 21 pages)

Procedures – for 2014 harvest

Trials

- [Trial inspection and data validation](#)
(PDF, 93.2KB, 13 pages)
- [Test and trial design and data handling](#)
(PDF, 54.7KB, 8 pages)
- [Guidance note for data review, standard setting and decision making](#)
(PDF, 54.2KB, 8 pages)

[Guidance: CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme: conversion factors](#)

Updated: Annual update to CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme: Table of Conversion Factors

Compliance requirements

Organisations which participate within the CRC are required to monitor their energy use, and report their energy supplies annually. The Environment Agency's reporting system applies emissions factors to calculate participants' carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions on the basis of this information.

Participants must purchase and surrender allowances for their emissions. Allowances can either be bought at annual fixed-price sales, or traded on the secondary market. One allowance must be surrendered for each tonne of CO₂ emitted.

In the current phase, participants have the option of buying allowances in advance in the lower price 'forecast sale' at the start of a compliance year, or in a higher price 'compliance sale' after the end of the year.

For the current phase, the following prices have been announced:

CRC Scheme Year	Forecast Sale Price	Compliance Sale Price
2014/15	£15.60	£16.40
2015/16	£15.60	£16.90
2016/17	£16.10	£17.20
2017/18	£16.60	£17.70
2018/19	£17.20	£18.30

At Budget in March 2016, HMT announced the decision to close CRC following the 2018-19 compliance year, with no purchase of allowances required to cover emissions for energy supplied from April 2019.

Further guidance

Official guidance on [all aspects of complying with the CRC Scheme](#) is available from the Environment Agency webpages.