

OILSEED RAPE UPDATE

LATEST NEWS & VIEWS ON CROP PERFORMANCE & PROSPECTS



Trials Show Resilience Value

The first field-scale trials to be harvested this season show highest merit Recommended List candidate, DK Extremus living-up to the impressive performance shown in last year's NIAB TAG variety trials.

Strip trials in the Vale of Evesham saw the variety which doesn't carry the TuYV trait out-yield the resistant Recommended List leader by more than 20%, with farm favourite **DK Expedient** 8% ahead.

Yields averaging 3.6t/ha across the farm's full 30ha crop of **DK Expedient** were rather disappointing given good even establishment, winter survival and flowering. However, they were noticeably better than last season even with OSR still being grown one year in every four, 15 hard frosts in April and obvious pod midge damage.

The farm team was especially impressed with the extra get-up-and-go of **DK Extremus** as a step-on for the future even compared to the very fast development of **DK Expedient**, with DEKALB pod shatter resistance continuing to be much appreciated.

Across more than 1.5ha of better conditions in Suffolk, **DK Extremus** also stood out at the top of the trial with an average of 4.38t/ha, out-performing the TuYV-resistant control by a good 8%, while first choice early driller, **DK Exstar** did so by 2%.

"These results confirm that, while useful, the Turnip Yellows Virus resistance trait is by no means essential for the best performance," says DEKALB trials manager, Richard Williams.

"We have long found that EX hybrids, selected and tested completely untreated in challenging environments, can out-perform the best TuYV varieties even without the trait. This is because they have strong tolerances to key environmental pressures we regard as fundamentals of resilience alongside DEKALB yield-protecting traits."

Farm performance bounces back

Oilseed rape performance has bounced back in a major way this season at Braemore Estate in Hampshire with 52ha of DK Exsteel yielding almost exactly double the 2t/ha farm average of last harvest.

"We put our entire area into **DK Exsteel** this time round after the 20ha we tried last year averaged a good tonne more than the bulk of the rest of our 92ha of other varieties," explains manager, David Northway. "We particularly appreciated its much better autumn and spring development and impressive pod shatter resistance. Once again, it hasn't disappointed."

Drilled into reasonably long spring barley stubble at around 40 seeds/m² in the third week of August with a specialist seedbed fertiliser, it emerged rapidly in much better moisture conditions than 2019 to grow away strongly from a noticeably lower flea beetle threat.

EXCITED EXCELS ACROSS EUROPE

DK Excited is showing the value of adding TuYV resistance to the robust package of DEKALB yield-protecting traits throughout Europe this season.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in its performance in the first 10 sites to be harvested in official 2020/21 Polish national trials, extending to 66 varieties – including five at or near top of the 2021/22 UK Recommended List.

The only variety to average more than 6.0t/ha in the trial series, **DK Excited** is topping the table, delivering 115% of the 5.28t/ha trial mean.

What's more, it is underlining its position by out-performing the current UK Recommended List leader by fully 6% overall as well as at no less than seven of the 10 individual sites.

"Robustness is the reason we've always been excited by **DK Excited**," says DEKALB breeder Matthew Clarke. "And it certainly seems to be paying off."



For more information on DEKALB varieties visit cropsience.bayer.co.uk/dekalb or follow us @dekalb_osr

