

# Winter Oilseed Rape Varieties

## Irish Recommended List for 2009 Sowing



**The Department of  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Iascaigh agus Bia**

### CROP VARIETY EVALUATION DIVISION

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#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF) has taken all due care in evaluating the performance of the listed varieties over a wide range of soils and environmental conditions, for a period of 3 years. The Department cannot, however, accept responsibility for any loss or inconvenience arising from any future variation in absolute or relative varietal performance.

#### Winter Oilseed Rape Growing in Ireland

Winter oilseed rape (WOSR) varieties grown commercially in Ireland are classified as *Brassica napus* (Swede Rape) and all have low levels of both erucic acid and glucosinolates. These varieties are known as 'double zero varieties' and their seed is suitable for processing for both food and feed use. The crop is usually grown in rotation with cereals, with usually two or more years between successive WOSR crops in the same field.

It is important that the crop is sown at the best time, which is usually between mid August and mid September, to get good establishment before winter. Sowing dates should be decided on the basis of the usual climate and the experience gained in the area over the years.

## Introduction

This leaflet lists the winter oilseed rape varieties that are considered most suitable for growing under Irish conditions. The varieties included on the recommended list have completed three years in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's trials. These trials were located in Cork, Kilkenny and Kildare and grown in accordance with good farming practice. The results presented are based on the trials harvested in the years 2007 to 2009. The yearly trial results over the three years are combined in a single evaluation.

## Variety Testing Procedure

New varieties are submitted annually to the Department from Irish Agents acting on behalf of International plant breeders or directly from these breeders. These varieties enter combined National List/ Recommended List trials. Trials are comprised of 25 varieties and are grown at three centres per year. The varieties are assessed as to their suitability under Irish conditions for seed yield, oil content and other traits.

After completing 3 years in the combined National List/Recommended List trials, new varieties showing superior performance are given positive Value for Cultivation and Use (V.C.U.) status. Those varieties can then be National Listed by the breeder, thus allowing them to be considered for Provisional Recommendation. If these Provisionally Recommended varieties perform sufficiently well in trials in the following year, they may be upgraded to Full Recommendation after 1, 2 or occasionally 3 years further trialling. Provisional recommendation is possible for a maximum of three years.

**Growers should give preference to the varieties listed unless there is compelling evidence that other varieties are more suited to their specific conditions.**

Throughout the trial programme, efforts are being made to select improved varieties.

## Types of Recommendation:

Varieties appearing on the list for the first time are **Provisionally Recommended (PR)**, and have completed three years in combined National list/ Recommended list (NL/RL) trials. The eventual status of these varieties is determined by the level of performance in ongoing NL/RL trials; fully **Recommended (R)** classification may be deemed to be merited after a further one, two or exceptionally three years, or alternatively they may be removed from the list at any stage. As 2009 is the first year of publication of the Recommended List for winter oilseed rape for many years; all of the varieties on the list have a provisional recommendation.

## Laboratory Analysis:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food take seed samples from each trial plot at harvesting and dry them to determine the dry matter content and determine the seed yield @9% moisture. This dried seed is sampled and quality tested for oil content by NIAB, UK. Oil content is expressed as oil content @ 9% moisture.

**Table 1: Recommended List of Winter Oilseed Rape Varieties for 2009 Sowing.**

Actual seed yield data is shown for the mean of the control varieties, and the relative seed yield data (as % of controls) is shown for all varieties. The data is based on results of 8 trials (2 to 3 trials x 3 years) harvested in the period 2007 to 2009.

This Table should be read in conjunction with the Information on the Variety Traits, which is presented on the next page.

	<b>Relative Seed Yield @9% moisture</b>	<b>Relative Oil Content @ 9% moisture</b>	<b>Full Plant Height (m)</b>	<b>Lodging Resistance Of the maturing crop. (1 - 9) (9 = best).</b>	<b>Stem Stiffness (1 – 9). (9 = upright).</b>	<b>Seed Shedding Resistance (1 – 9). (9 = best resistance).</b>	<b>Earliness of Maturity/ Ripening Score (1 – 9). (9 = earliest).</b>	<b>Year first Recomm -ended</b>
<b>Controls* (actual)</b>	<b>4.2t/ha**</b>	<b>44.2%**</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>(6.4)</b>	<b>(7.2)</b>	<b>---</b>
<b>Epure (PR-1)</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>ES Astrid (PR-1)</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Flash (PR-1)</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>NK Bravour (PR-1)</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Osprey (PR-1)</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>PR45D03 (PR-1)</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Vision (PR-1)</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>2009</b>

\* 'Control' figures are the averages for all the varieties in the trials in 2007, 2008 and 2009. (R): Recommended for general use. (PR): Provisionally Recommended (The number after the PR, indicates the number of years provisionally recommended). \*\*The average 'Seed Yield @ 9% moisture' over the period 2007 to 2009 was 4.2t/ha and the average 'Oil Content @ 9% moisture' over the 2007 to 2008 period was 44.2%. Figures shown in brackets ( ) are based on limited data and should be treated with caution.

## Information on the Variety Traits Shown in Table 1.

**Seed Yield;** It is for fungicide treated crops.

**Oil Content;** The importance of oil content to an individual grower in deciding which variety to grow is very dependent on whether or not a bonus payment will be received for deliveries containing a particularly high oil content, and the particular terms of those payments. It is common practice in Ireland, for winter oilseed rape seed to be sold without payment of an oil bonus.

**Full Plant Height;** This is the height measured soon after flowering and before the top of the crop canopy begins to lean to one side. Short varieties are easy to spray, as they do not require spraying equipment having very high ground clearance, to cover the crop after stem extension in spring.

**Lodging Resistance of the Maturing Crop;** Figures are expressed to the nearest half unit. A high score indicates good lodging resistance. Poor lodging resistance indicates great variation in the height of the top of the crop canopy in adjacent areas at harvest time. This difference can be particularly great in tall varieties, making direct harvesting very difficult. Poor lodging resistance could also indicate that the whole of the crop canopy is excessively near the ground for successful harvesting.

Caution concerning the lodging resistance scores presented; The trials on which the data in Table 1 is based, were grown in a ploughed tillage system and the seeding rate, 'in seeds per square metre', was 85 for conventional varieties and 55 for hybrid varieties. They were sown in good conditions and good plant establishment rates were achieved. However, it should be noted that a big increase in the number of plants established per square metre can considerably reduce lodging resistance. In this regard, growers in deciding on the appropriate seeding rate to use, should take account of the likely plant establishment rates in their growing system.

**Stem Stiffness;** A high score indicates that plant stems are stiff and tend to remain upright, unless lodging occurs. A low score indicates that the top of the canopy leans to one side soon after flowering.

**Seed Shedding Resistance;** A high score indicates very good resistance to seed shedding near harvest. It is particularly important in cases where harvesting is delayed unduly. Data for this trait is limited and this is indicated by the brackets ( ) around the figures shown in Table 1.

**Earliness of Maturity;** A high score indicates early maturity/ripening of the crop, allowing early harvesting. Data for this trait is limited and this is indicated by the brackets ( ) around the figures shown in Table 1.

**Note:** Insufficient data was available to provide information on varietal resistance to Light Leaf Spot.

## Characteristics of the Winter Oilseed Rape Varieties in Table 1.

<p><b>Epure (PR-1):</b> (Conventional variety)</p>	<p>Second highest seed yield. Good oil content. A tall variety with good lodging resistance. Bred by Momont, France.</p>
<p><b>ES Astrid (PR-1):</b> (Conventional variety)</p>	<p>Good seed yield. Its oil content is considerably lower than that of other varieties on the list. A moderately tall variety with good lodging resistance. The top of the crop canopy tends to lean to one side due to moderate stem stiffness. Bred by Euralis, France.</p>
<p><b>Flash (PR-1):</b> (Hybrid variety)</p>	<p>It has the highest seed yield. Good oil content. It is the tallest variety on the list and has good lodging resistance. Bred by DSV, Germany.</p>
<p><b>NK Bravour (PR-1):</b> (Conventional variety)</p>	<p>Good seed yield. Good oil content. A tall variety with good lodging resistance. Bred by Syngenta, Germany.</p>
<p><b>Osprey (PR-1):</b> (Conventional variety)</p>	<p>Very good seed yield. Its oil content is considerably higher than that of other varieties on the list. A tall variety with very good lodging resistance. Bred by M. Pickford, UK.</p>
<p><b>PR45D03 (PR-1):</b> (Hybrid semi-dwarf variety)</p>	<p>Good seed yield. Moderate oil content. It is by far the shortest variety on the list and is the only semi-dwarf variety. It has the best lodging resistance. Bred by Pioneer, Germany.</p>
<p><b>Vision (PR-1):</b> (Conventional variety)</p>	<p>Good seed yield. Moderately good oil content. A tall variety with good lodging resistance. Bred by SW Seeds, Germany.</p>



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## RECOMMENDED LISTS

Cereal Varieties

Herbages Varieties: (Grasses and Clover)

Forage Maize Varieties

## CROPS SCHEMES AND SERVICES

Seed Certification

Seed Testing

*The use of certified seed ensures a high level of varietal purity and germination.*

*Requests for this booklet should be sent to:*

Plant Health, Crop Production & Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Administrative Building, Backweston Campus, Stacumny Lane, Celbridge, Co Kildare, *or*  
E-mail [christine.prior@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:christine.prior@agriculture.gov.ie)

Alternatively, Recommended Lists can be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food website; **[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)** where they can be found under the heading 'PUBLICATIONS'.