

Variety Guide 2011 | 2012

Hybrid Oilseed Rape



DSV

**Innovation for
your growth**

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DSV United Kingdom Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Deutsche Saatveredelung AG (DSV), based in Lippstadt Germany. DSV is one of Europe's leading plant breeding companies, founded in 1923, having moved to its present headquarters in 1945.

The company has a turnover of more than 77 million euros and more than 350 employees. DSV is a co-operative, with approximately 790 shareholders comprising of 64% farmers, 14% staff and 22% other local businesses.

DSV UK is relatively new, only having been incorporated since February 2008. However DSV varieties have been sold in the UK for over 25 years, through various agencies.

At present DSV is breeding a selection of crops specifically for the UK market. These include winter and spring oilseed rape, winter and spring wheat and 6 row winter barley, as well as forage and amenity grasses (through joint venture company Euro Grass B.V). The breeding activities of DSV UK are carried out at the breeding station in Wardington, close to Banbury, Oxfordshire. The oilseed rape programme has been very successful over many years, from Libravo (winner of the NIAB challenge cup in 1991) Lipton and Lizard to the current varieties on the HGCA Recommended List 2011, where Compass, Dimension, Flash and Hammer are the leading hybrid oilseed varieties as well as the well-known conventional variety Lioness. Ability oilseed rape has become the UK's favourite variety for spring sowing.



▲ DSV Headquarters Lippstadt, Germany

▼ Thüle Winter Oilseed Rape Breeding Station, Germany





The aim of DSV is to breed high yielding oilseed rape varieties with high oil content in combination with an excellent agronomic package for disease resistance, lodging resistance, early maturity and ideal plant height; the Holy Grail of all breeding work at DSV.

DSV is focusing its breeding efforts on hybrid varieties. There are two hybrid systems used in the breeding programmes, so called 'MSL' and 'OGURA'. Both hybrid systems are based on producing a pollen sterile mother line and a fertile pollinator (restorer) line. The aim is to have the sterile mother line and the fertile pollinator line derived from

very different genetic pools, and to combine them to produce maximum benefits for the farmer. The crossing of the mother line and the pollinator line, to produce the F1 Hybrid, ideally takes all the advantages of both lines, and links to higher seed and oil yields as well as to a better agricultural performance of hybrids in comparison to conventional lines.

The main skill of hybrid breeding lies simply in the ability to get the genetics of the father line and the mother line far enough apart so that crossing produces a high yielding hybrid, resulting in increased profits for the farmer.

Some variety thoughts from the seed trade

Chris Guest – Gleadell | Seed Manager



Combining high seed yield with high oil content, Compass is an excellent choice for UK farmers. With impressive results in both the East & West and Northern regions the variety will certainly see strong demand this autumn.

Many growers who chose the variety last year have already re-booked their requirements for autumn 2011 drilling, based on what they have seen so far, including better establishment based on vigorous growth after sowing and also as we moved into the spring. Grower comments would certainly confirm the recent phenomenon that pigeons have a particular dislike to the variety.

Lee Bennett – Openfield | National Seeds & Technical Manager



Dimension is a restored hybrid variety with an extremely vigorous growth habit clearly obvious in the field. It is an Openfield Select variety purely as a result of its uncompromisingly strong growth, which helps to maintain good crop performance. Dimension develops into a medium height hybrid with stiff straw and early maturity, providing an easily harvested crop. Not surprisingly, Dimension delivers impressive grain yields with high oil content seed. It has been quick to attract an established following.

Beckii Gibbs – United Oilseeds | Seed Manager



United Oilseeds has been recommending Flash to its members since it first hit the HGCA's Recommended List in 2008. Its hybrid vigour and excellent agronomics mean that it is performing exceptionally well and continues to deliver excellent yields with oil contents regularly exceeding 45%. Flash delivers great results, especially under difficult growing conditions when many other varieties show signs of weakness. It establishes well in the autumn and shows great vigour in the spring beating frost and pigeon damage, making it one of the more dependable varieties available to growers.

Barry Barker – Masstock Arable | National Arable Seed Product Manager



The combination of excellent stem canker resistance and strong vigour has made Hammer a very important variety for many of our customers. It fits in well for those growing oilseed rape in relatively close rotations and for those who are drilling through into early September. Many of our farmers have

continued to grow Hammer since its introduction 4 years ago.

Nigel Walley – Agrovista | National Seed Manager



Climber is a new introduction from DSV for 2011. Available exclusively through Agrovista, this hybrid has exceptional early vigour coupled with excellent stem canker and light leaf spot scores. Climber is one of a range of new generation shorter hybrids available to UK farmers. Being early to mature

with impressive stem stiffness and resistance to lodging enables Climber to reach its full potential and maximise harvest returns.



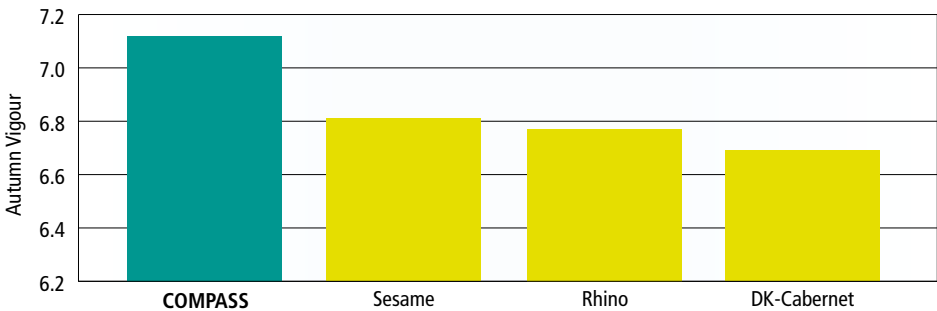
Compass

Hybrid Oilseed Rape



Status: Status: East & West and North Region Recommended Lists 2011/2012

Compass is a high performance restored hybrid winter oilseed rape variety. It was added to the HGCA Recommended List 2011/2012 for both regions in December 2010. In the East & West it has a very high gross output (106%), outperforming the majority of varieties on the list. In the Northern region Compass has the highest gross output (108%) which is made up of the highest seed yield (105%) and the highest oil content (46.3%). Compass is an exceptionally fast autumn developer, with the highest score for autumn vigour in HGCA Recommended List trials. It is also one of the few varieties which is recommended for growing throughout the UK showing its reliability across a range of climates and conditions.



On the 1-9 scale, high figures indicate that a variety shows the character to a high degree.

HGCA Recommended List 2011/2012	East & West Region		North Region		Both Regions	
	Gross Output %	Oil Content %	Gross Output %	Oil Content %	Stem Stiffness	Resistance to Lodging
COMPASS	106	46.6	108	46.3	8	8
Fashion	104	45.6	105	44.6	8	7
Vision	104	45.2	106	45.0	8	8
Excalibur	102	44.9	102	43.8	7	7

A good package of disease resistance makes Compass a safe bet for all UK growers. Its excellent regional yield performances from the official trials are testament to its universal suitability. Maximisation of the pod-filling phase is critical to achieving the full potential of any OSR variety. Compass is medium-late flowering (6) with a maturity date score of 5 allowing it to coincide with the maincrop OSR harvest.



“So far I am very pleased with the strong, robust plants that have come through during one of the hardest winters we have had for a number of years. The crop has been free from disease and very clean from the start. We decided to grow Compass because of its high oil content and seed yield. This is the first year we have grown a hybrid variety, usually we farm save conventional varieties. Another benefit we found from growing a hybrid was that it allowed us to drill at a later date.”

John Nurse,
Place Farm, Stuston

Dimension

Hybrid Oilseed Rape



Status: East & West Region Recommended List 2011/2012

Now proven on-farm across the UK, Dimension is a fantastic all-round, agronomically strong variety. Dimension was first introduced to the UK in 2009, its year of recommendation for the East & West regions, and has now taken a significant market share. Dimension shows particularly strong early vigour in the autumn, and gives very high gross output (104%), with its very high oil content (46.5%) providing extra profit potential.

HGCA Recommended List 2011/2012	Gross Output %	Oil Content %
DIMENSION	104	46.5
Palace	104	45.6
Vision	103	44.4
Excalibur	102	44.9

Straw Strength

Dimension has a relatively short stem, with good stem characteristics and excellent resistance to lodging. It is shorter and stiffer than many other varieties scoring an 8 for both stem stiffness and resistance to lodging.

HGCA Recommended List 2011/2012	Stem Stiffness	Resistance to Lodging
DIMENSION	8	8
Palace	8	7
Vision	8	8
Excalibur	7	7

Disease Resistance

Dimension has strong disease resistance. It scores 5 for light leaf spot and 5 for stem canker which is an advantage as oilseed rape rotations become tighter. The flexible sowing window, strong autumn and spring growth and ability to compensate better than a conventional variety are all real, tangible benefits offered to growers by Dimension.

"We are growing around 32ha of Dimension this year after receiving impressive yields and noticeably high oil content (47%) over the past two years. We originally chose Dimension for its early vigour and relatively short stiff stem for a hybrid. It has really grown away this spring and, without a doubt, is the most forward crop on the farm. There is good plant coverage and there has been no noticeable damage by pigeons or frost."

Ben Haddingham,
Retreat Farm, Flixton





Status: East & West and North Region Recommended Lists 2011/2012

Flash is one of the few varieties recommended for the whole of the United Kingdom. Flash has performed exceptionally well in the HGCA North region and has one of the highest oil contents (44.9%) and seed yields (104%). Flash has one of the most consistent gross outputs available, and for that reason has been selected as a control variety by the HGCA, confirming its suitability across a wide range of climatic conditions and locations.

HGCA Recommended List 2010/2011	Gross Output %	
	East & West	North
FLASH	102	105
Excalibur	102	102
Lioness	100	103
NK-Bravour	99	98

Flash is a relatively late flowering variety, which means that it is less likely to be affected by potentially damaging late frosts. It also has excellent powers of recovery in the spring and this rapid early growth has been noted by growers. As a relatively late maturing variety, it gives growers an opportunity to spread their workload at harvest.

As well as being a popular variety in the United Kingdom, Flash is also sold in many other leading agricultural countries including France, the United States and New Zealand as well as Kazakhstan, the Ukraine and Romania, showing consistent, high gross output and excellent overall performance. Flash provides a good package of disease resistance and has excellent straw characteristics. Although it is quite a tall variety it is also stiff, scoring 7 for both resistance to lodging and stem stiffness in untreated trials.



“This is the third year that I have grown Flash. I continue to be impressed with its high yields and oil content. I originally chose it for its overall performance and it has delivered consistently ever since. Flash is an easy crop to grow agronomically and at harvest time; and despite difficult conditions, has exceeded expectations again.”

Ed Wharton,
Winsford Hall Farm, Stokesby



Climber

Hybrid Oilseed Rape

Status: UK National Listed

Climber is one of a new range of shorter hybrids from DSV UK. Climber's early maturity and strong autumn vigour are undoubtedly this variety's strongest assets, as well as having the ability to meet the high yield expectations of any oilseed rape grower.

	Height (cm)	Flowering	Maturity	Stem Stiffness	Resistance to Lodging
CLIMBER	156	7.3	6.1	7.7	8
Excalibur	161	7.5	6.2	7.2	8
DK-Expower	163	7.1	6.4	6.7	8

National List Data 2009/2010

Climber has performed well in trials this year and compares well with rival varieties such as DK Expower. Climber has a good score for stem stiffness (7.7) and resistance to lodging (8) compared with other varieties. Climber also has an impressive gross output and oil content. The highest oil content of this variety in trials (47.9%) was achieved in Gloucestershire, demonstrating the potential. Climber's excellent agronomic package demonstrates an improvement over many other hybrids.



Record

Hybrid Oilseed Rape

Status: UK National Listed

Record is another new hybrid oilseed rape varieties from DSV in 2011. It has shown high yields and impressive gross output (104%) during National List Trials.

Record has shown consistent results throughout the UK, demonstrating that it suits a variety of climatic conditions and soil types. Record also boasts a good resistance score for stem canker (6) which shows an improvement over most existing varieties on the market.

	Height (cm)	Flowering	Maturity	Stem Stiffness	Resistance to Lodging
RECORD	157	6.7	6	8.3	8
Excalibur	161	7.5	6.2	7.2	8
DK-Expower	163	7.1	6.4	6.7	8

National List Data 2009/2010




Status: East & West Recommended List 2011/2012

Hammer has been well received on farm for the last three years. It has proved itself time and time again, providing excellent yields and oil bonuses for growers. It is one of the leading varieties for its oil content (46.2%).

HGCA Recommended List 2011/2012	Oil Content %	Stem Canker	Light Leaf Spot	Stem Stiffness	Resistance to Lodging
HAMMER	46.2	6	5	8	8
Palace	45.6	5	7	8	7
Excalibur	44.9	5	6	7	7
Sesame	44.6	5	6	8	(8)

Hammer is a key variety on the East & West Recommended List where it's high rating for resistance to stem canker (6.3) and light leaf spot (5.3) is a major advantage. Hammer is fairly early to flower and is of medium late maturity; a key variety which fits in well with other varieties to help spread harvest workload.

Hammer has excellent straw characteristics, with a strong, relatively short stem. It has one of the highest scores for stem stiffness (8) as well as scoring extremely well for resistance to lodging (8). Hammer also shows very fast autumn development – an important attribute, valued by most growers.



"I have decided to grow a considerable acreage of Hammer for the second year running due to its good establishment and impressive performance last year. As the farm is situated on heavy land, hybrids are a good choice and due to other commitments we like to drill late, so we knew we were safe with Hammer."

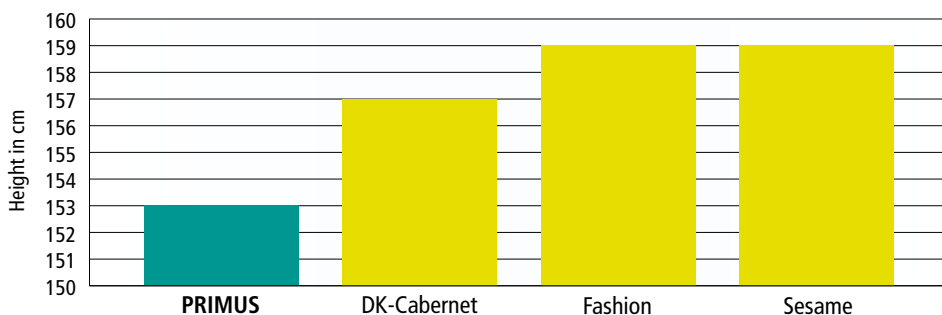
Roger French,
Newlands Farm, Little Canfield

Primus

Hybrid Oilseed Rape

Status: UK National Listed

Primus has an excellent gross output which is 7% higher than Castille. In addition to Primus’ impressive yield it has very good lodging resistance and stem stiffness. There is a growing trend for shorter hybrid varieties with less biomass in the current UK market. Primus is one of the shortest hybrids available without being a semi dwarf. At 153 cm it is much shorter than the majority of hybrids, some of which can grow to nearly two metres. Having less stem to harvest makes it easier and quicker for the combine as well as reducing stress on labour and machinery costs at a busy time.



Recommended List Trials Data 2011/2012

HGCA Recommended List Trials Data East & West region 2011/2012	Gross Output %	Oil Content %	Resistance to lodging	Stem Stiffness
PRIMUS	104	45.4	8	8
Fashion	104	45.2	8	8
Vision	103	44.4	8	8
Excalibur	102	44.9	7	7

Primus is one of the best varieties available for oil content, as well as having an excellent agronomy package. Many farmers have commented on the speed of establishment of this variety especially in difficult growing conditions.

“The main reason I chose Primus was because it was relatively short for a hybrid. I needed a variety which would be quick and easy to harvest on strong, fertile land. The fact that it was considerably earlier to harvest than most other varieties was also a key reason for buying.”

Michael Wiseman,
Hall Farm, Great Chishill



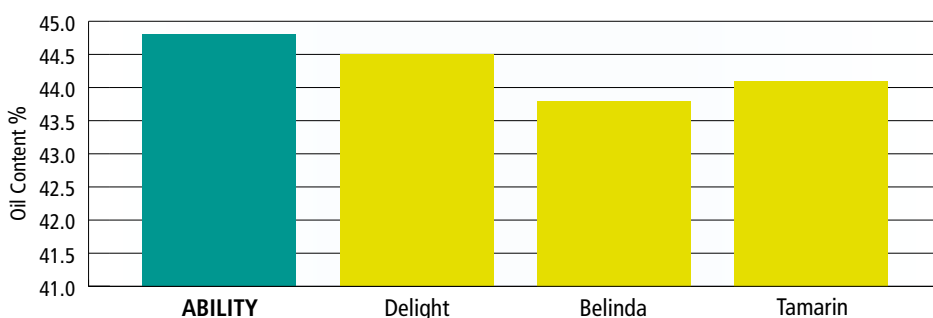
Ability

Spring Oilseed Rape



Status: Descriptive List 2011

Ability is the most widely grown spring oilseed rape variety in the United Kingdom. It has been grown successfully in the UK since 2006 and has had consistently high yields year after year. Ability has one of the highest oil contents on the Descriptive List.



Ability has a very good standing ability, scoring 7 on the Descriptive List. It has a relatively short stem compared to the majority of varieties on the list, reducing the chances of lodging and the requirement of a growth regulator. The fact that it is a relatively short variety, having a lower biomass, means that growing Ability allows for a more manageable harvest, resulting in higher returns for the farmer.

Makro

Hybrid Spring Oilseed Rape

Status: Descriptive List Trials

Since its introduction into the trialling system in 2009 it has been the highest yielding variety each year. Makro is currently a candidate in the Descriptive List Trials.

Makro has the highest gross output (114%) which is made up of the highest seed yield (111%) and the highest oil content (45.8%) in the trials. It has a gross output which is a huge 11% higher than the current highest scoring hybrid variety (Delight) on the HGCA Descriptive List, as well as having the vigorous growth habit which is associated with autumn grown hybrids.

HGCA Recommended List Trials 2010/2011	Gross Output %	Seed Yield %	Oil Content %
MAKRO	114	111	45.8
Delight	103	103	45.1
Heros	100	98	45.3



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Data source: All data is sourced from the UK HGCA Recommended List 2011/2012 and National List trials for cereals and oilseeds. On the 1-9 scales, high figures indicate that a variety shows the character to a high degree.

Note: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this variety guide is accurate and complete, some of the information is supplied to us by third parties and we are not able to check the accuracy and completeness of that information. No guarantee is given, that the listed information represents all aspects of agricultural practice. We do not accept any liability arising from any inaccuracy or omission in any of the information provided in this guide.