

MAKRO

Hybrid spring oilseed rape.



Makro

Hybrid Spring Oilseed Rape

Breeder: NPZ

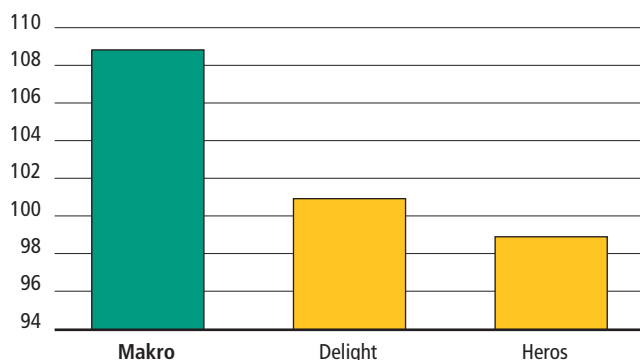
Status: Descriptive List

MAKRO joined the Spring Oilseed Rape HGCA Descriptive List in November 2011 and is the leading variety. The limited seed which was available last year performed exceptionally, with many growers achieving record yields and oil contents on farm.

MAKRO:

- has the highest gross output (109%) which is made up of the highest seed yield (107%) and the highest oil content (44.5%) in the trial series.
- has a gross output which is a huge 8% higher than last year's highest scoring hybrid variety (Delight) on the HGCA Descriptive List.
- has the vigorous growth habit which is associated with autumn grown hybrids.

Gross Output %



Seed Yield %

	Gross Output	Seed Yield	Oil Content
MAKRO (RH)	(109)	(107)	(44.5)
Delight (RH)	101	101	43.9
Heros (C)	99	98	44.2

Source: HGCA Descriptive List 2012/2013 Spring OSR

MAKRO has a very high oil content improving growers' chances of achieving an oil premium

Agronomic Factors

	Shortness of Stem	Standing Ability	Flowering
MAKRO (RH)	(4)	(8)	5
Delight (RH)	6	8	8
Heros (C)	6	8	6

MAKRO is medium flowering and later maturing allowing farmers to spread their harvest load. **MAKRO** is a relatively tall variety and although it has very good stem characteristics it may benefit from the use of a PGR.

Why choose a hybrid for the spring?

Hybrids offer consistency of performance and reliability over conventional varieties. The vigour associated with hybrids allows plants to establish quickly and be more resilient especially in difficult growing seasons. This vigour allows increased flexibility with sowing date.

Hybrids also have the ability to utilise nutrients more efficiently. Trials have proven that they generally outperform conventional varieties in respect to yield, and their genetic stability provides high oil content.



Pack Size

MAKRO will be supplied in packs of 2.1 million seeds. This should be sufficient to sow 3ha. As with autumn sown hybrids, a lower seed rate is required for **MAKRO**. It should ideally be planted at 70 germinating seeds per m².

Seed should be sown when soils have warmed up, in the first three weeks of April. This will give the seeds the best opportunity to germinate and grow. If drilling commences outside this sowing window then higher seed rates should be applied.

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Positive experiences with the spring rape variety Makro

Farming and managing a shoot in the Worcestershire, Giles Jackson grows spring crops as a key management activity for the partridge shoot on the farm. "We grow spring crops so that we have the stubble in the autumn for the partridges. This last season we grew Makro spring OSR for this reason."

"The Makro was direct drilled into barley stubble at a good seed rate, it chitted very well and it grew strongly, providing excellent canopy cover throughout the spring and into the summer, which is just what we are looking for. The thick canopy coverage also helped to keep down weeds in the crop. At harvest we tend to cut the stalk quite high in order to keep a good stubble for the birds and Makro has good straw strength for this purpose," he added.

However Giles points out that the Makro also yielded very well at 3.75 t/ha (1.5 t/acre) so the crop also paid its way and generated a good return. "You don't have to spend as much on a spring crop as a winter one and if you can get this sort of yield and gross margin and also provide good cover for the birds, it ticks all the boxes."

Giles Jackson, Kittenspool, Bromsgrove

Farming in the West Midlands on some heavy land, Rupert Inkpen grew Makro spring rape this year, and he was very pleased with it. "For starters the Makro yielded very well at 30 cwt/acre (3.7 t/ha)- a bit more than we expected. It also delivered high oils" he said.

"Makro gave an excellent gross margin compared to the winter oilseed crop – this is a combination of good yields, good pricing and lower inputs costs. We can make significant savings on Nitrogen alone. In winter rape we apply between 180-190 kgs of Nitrogen/ha but for the spring crop it is more like 120 – quite a difference - and we don't need the expensive herbicide or fungicide programmes that winter rape requires," he points out

Mr Inkpen explains that he doesn't normally grow spring oilseed rape. "we did so as we didn't get all the winter rape drilled as expected due to the weather. In fact we don't grow many spring crops at all, our normal rotation is winter wheat, winter oilseed

rape, winter wheat and then linseed or beans. But the Makro really got us out of a hole as well as delivering excellent margins and additional benefits."

The Makro was planted in mid-April and this allowed us to control black-grass with more autumn cultivations and applying total herbicide such as glyphosate in the spring prior to drilling. "We have quite a black-grass problem on the heavier land, so being able to break the weed seed cycle by growing a spring rape crop was a big advantage."

Rupert reports that the Makro spring rape on his farm was harvested in September, well in time to get his wheat crops in.

Rupert Inkpen, Home Farm, West Midlands

Farming in Warwickshire on soils from high organic to medium clay, Roger Lea grew the hybrid spring oilseed rape variety Makro last year and said it was the best spring rape he had ever grown.

He admits that he didn't plan to grow spring rape, but his hand was forced as an area of winter oilseed rape was drilled in difficult conditions, didn't establish well and ultimately failed due to rabbit damage. "It was an obvious choice to try some Makro as it was said to be a vigorous variety and I understand it is now the highest yielding spring rape variety in the new HGCA Descriptive list."

"And I must say I was very pleased with its performance. It did grow well and wasn't at all heavy on inputs. In fact all it needed was a herbicide Galera (clopyralid and picloram) for broad-leaved weed control*, some Nitrogen fertiliser and a desiccant – that was all. It yielded just under 3 t/ha. So we had a crop that yielded well with very little expenditure, it acted as a good break crop and more importantly solved our cropping dilemma," says Roger.

Mr Roger Lea, Wheeley Moor Farm, Warwickshire

*Galera has an Extension of Authorisation (or SOLA) for use on spring oilseed rape.