



HARVEST UPDATE

Latest news and views on OSR variety performance



DK Exalte Continues to Deliver Alongside the Best Newcomers

DK Exalte is holding its own in an impressive way alongside nine up-and-coming DEKALB varieties in large strip trials run under local farm conditions across the country this season.

With results in from 12 of the 15 sites in the 2017 series, the established grower favourite stands second only to the best coded variety in seed yield, and neck-and-neck with high output newcomer, **DK Expansion**.

Treated seed yields of over 6t/ha on two sites and more than 5t/ha at no less than six give **DK Exalte** a whole trial average of 4.80 t/ha or 104% of the 4.6t/ha field-scale trial mean.

With its 45.5% oil content, this means the variety is delivering an average field-scale gross output of comfortably over 5t/ha.

Making the Most of a Golden 2017 Establishment Opportunity

A harvest regularly disrupted by rain means most oilseed rape ground should have sufficient early moisture to give the 2018 crop a flying start. But only if full advantage is taken of this golden opportunity with the right seedbed preparation, seed choice, sowing discipline and early crop care.

Even in areas of high flea beetle concern, ground conditions should always take priority over calendar date in drilling, with the whole focus placed on creating the right conditions for rapid, even emergence, rooting and early leaf growth over the key mid-August to mid-September window.

However and whenever it's sown, the main keys to success with OSR are to avoid compaction, retain enough moisture in the seeding zone and achieve the best possible seed-to-soil contact.

As well as conditions, early emergence and establishment ability are far more about seed quality than it is about so-called vigour.

It is, however, important to match varieties to establishment conditions on the basis of their speed of autumn development.

Match Varieties to Conditions

Most varieties are suited to sowing through to late-August in reasonable seedbed conditions. Where the priority is to get crops away rapidly and reliably under less-than-ideal conditions or from early September drilling, though, choosing notably rapid-developing varieties like **DK Extrovert** and **DK Exalte** will give the greatest capacity to tolerate early flea beetle or slug attack as well as adverse weather.

It will also ensure the most weed- and pigeon-competitive crops.

FROM THE FIELD

LINCOLNSHIRE

Farm record 4.9t/ha achieved from 130ha of September-sown **DK Extrovert** & **DK Exalte** after spring wheat.

YORKSHIRE

DK Extrovert delivers a weighbridge average of 5.05t/ha from 17.6 ha despite significant headland pest damage.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

180ha of **DK Extrovert** with some **DK Exalte** average 4.9t/ha with the first oils at 46%.

LINCOLNSHIRE

HOLL value underlined with 16ha of premium-earning **V3160L** averaging 5.6t/ha.

YORKSHIRE

DK Exalte at 5.3t/ha over 50ha gives one of best-ever harvests

DEKALB OSR Type	Main Characteristics	Key Attributes	Particular Value
Rapid Hybrids DK Exalte DK Extrovert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vigorous establishment ability - Faster development speed - More erect early growth habit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consistent performance to four leaves - Less sunlight and temperature required to achieve required winter biomass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extra insurance against delayed sowing, difficult seedbeds, poor weather and early pests, disease, nutrient uptake and weed challenges

Stand-out Newcomers

Results from all 4 English sites show, newly introduced **DK Exclaim** and **DK Expansion** performing well above current standards in the national series of 22-variety replicated trials run for DEKALB under farm input regimes.

The only 2 named varieties to average over 5t/ha across the trial series, they delivered treated seed yields of 111% and 106% of the mean respectively.

Also confirming its high-performance credentials alongside **V3160L** at 102% of the 4.8 t/ha mean was **DK Exception** (103%) while at 100%, **DK Imperial CL** yielded only just below the current East & West Recommended List leader.



For more information on DEKALB varieties plus grower & agronomist reports & views visit www.DEKALB.co.uk

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