

Press Release

8 October 2014

Biogas forage maize DL issued for 2015

The British Society of Plant Breeders (BSPB) has published the *2015 Forage Maize for Anaerobic Digestion Descriptive List*, aimed at biogas producers growing and using the crop as a feedstock.

The Favourable List has 17 varieties, with six new listings including **Hobbit**, **ES Kira** and **ES Remington** from Grainseed, and **Asgaard**, **Alfastar** and **LG30.223** from Limagrain. The Less Favourable List, aimed at sites with 'marginal' growing conditions, has grown by nine to 14 varieties this year.

The varieties on the 2015 List have been nominated by the plant breeders and are all suitable for biogas production. The List aims to aid variety selection as producers can check energy output in the form of metabolisable energy (ME) and other traits such as dry matter content and yield, early vigour and standing power.

BSPB Forage Maize Panel chairman Brendan Paul says: "The launch of the BSPB Forage Maize AD list last year proved a great success with biogas growers. For the first time it provided them with independent trials data to help with variety selection.

"The use of energy production as a driver for selection onto the List, rather than total yield, has proved controversial as most growers are still being paid on a £/tonne fresh weight basis and the quality aspects are being ignored. As more AD plants come on stream we anticipate that the benefits of dry matter % and digestibility will become apparent."

The BSPB *2015 Forage Maize for Anaerobic Digestion Descriptive List* is available to download from the BSPB and NIAB websites.

Ends

Attachments

- BSPB *2015 Forage Maize for Anaerobic Digestion Descriptive List* – favourable and less favourable sites
- Brendan Paul, BSPB Forage Maize Panel chairman

Notes to editors

- BSPB is the representative organisation for plant breeders in the UK.
- The BSPB Forage Maize Crop Group organises independent Descriptive List testing for forage maize varieties.
- The trial work is carried out by NIAB and plant breeders under contract to the BSPB.
- Trials are grown to standard protocols which are reviewed annually to ensure that they are relevant to the industry. All trials are independently inspected to ensure compliance with protocol and high standards of trialling and the data are independently verified and analysed by NIAB.
- The varieties tabulated are forage maize varieties that the breeders have nominated as having potential suitability for AD use. The List may not represent the full range of forage maize or biogas varieties that are available for the market.



Table 1 - 2015 Forage Maize for Anaerobic Digestion Descriptive List – Favourable Sites

VARIETY	Dry Matter Content at harvest (%)	Dry Matter Yield (t/ha)	Dry Matter Yield (% control)	ME of fresh plant at harvest (MJ/kg dry matter)	ME yield of fresh plant at harvest (1,000's MJ/ha)	Early vigour 9=good 1=poor	Standing power at harvest (root lodging) 9=good 1=poor
HOBBIT	29.6	18.9	111	11.15	211	7.7	8.3
ASGAARD	32.3	18.3	108	11.44	210	7.8	8.3
ATRIUM	31.0	17.9	105	11.69	209	7.4	8.2
LG30.223	28.3	18.8	111	11.10	209	7.6	8.3
ALFASTAR	30.6	18.3	108	11.36	208	7.5	8.3
DUALTO	30.1	17.7	104	11.47	203	6.7	8.2
ES KIRA	30.4	18.2	107	11.03	201	7.2	8.2
ES MARCO	29.2	18.0	106	11.15	201	6.5	8.2
FIELDSTAR	33.6	17.6	104	11.39	200	7.6	8.2
BEETHOVEN	31.8	17.9	105	11.18	200	6.9	8.0
MAS 11F	31.3	17.6	103	11.30	199	7.4	8.2
DOMINATOR	31.1	17.6	104	11.03	194	7.0	8.3
ES BALLADE	32.1	17.1	101	11.28	193	7.0	8.3
ES REMINGTON	34.7	17.1	101	11.27	193	7.7	8.3
ES REGAIN	34.5	17.0	100	11.33	192	7.7	8.3
ES PICKER	35.8	16.5	97	11.40	188	7.8	8.3
ES ARDENT	36.4	16.2	95	11.34	183	7.1	8.3
Trial statistics							
Mean of 4&5 year varieties	32.9	17.0	100	11.33	193	7.2	8.2
LSD (V.Cont)	1.10	0.60	3.5	0.160	-	0.29	-
SE (variety mean)	0.553	0.300	1.77	0.0808	-	0.147	-

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Table 2 - 2015 Forage Maize for Anaerobic Digestion Descriptive List – Less Favourable Sites

VARIETY	Dry Matter Content at harvest (%)	Dry Matter Yield (t/ha)	Dry Matter Yield (% control)	ME of fresh plant at harvest (MJ/kg dry matter)	ME yield of fresh plant at harvest (1,000's MJ/ha)	Early vigour 9=good 1=poor	Standing power at harvest (root lodging) 9=good 1=poor
ES ARDENT	36.6	15.6	96	11.03	171	6.9	8.3
ES PICKER	36.0	15.7	97	11.19	175	7.8	8.2
ES REGAIN	34.3	16.4	101	11.20	184	7.8	8.3
ES REMINGTON	33.6	16.5	102	11.06	182	7.7	8.3
FIELDSTAR	33.2	17.2	106	11.16	192	7.7	8.2
MAS 11F	30.7	16.8	104	11.15	188	7.4	8.2
ES BALLADE	30.7	16.3	101	11.08	181	6.9	8.1
ALFASTAR	30.6	17.8	110	11.23	199	7.7	8.3
ASGAARD	31.6	17.7	109	11.31	200	7.9	8.3
DOMINATOR	30.3	16.7	103	10.80	180	7.1	8.3
DUALTO	29.2	16.8	104	11.32	190	6.7	8.2
ES MARCO	28.0	17.0	105	11.00	187	6.4	8.3
ES KIRA	29.3	17.5	108	10.76	188	7.2	8.0
HOBBIT	28.2	18.0	111	10.90	196	7.8	8.2
Trial statistics							
Mean of 4&5 year varieties	33.5	16.2	100	11.20	181	7.3	8.2
LSD (V.Cont)	1.32	0.62	3.8	0.163	-	0.34	-

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For further information contact:

Brendan Paul, BSPB Forage Maize Panel chairman

M: 07767 310454

E: brendan.paul@agrii.co.uk

Jeremy Widdowson, Variety Trials Coordinator, BSPB

T: 01353 653846

M: 07747 567351

E: jeremy.widdowson@bspb.co.uk

Issued by:

Ros Lloyd, Communications Manager, NIAB

T: 01223 342313

M: 07711 568164

E: ros.lloyd@niab.com