



Promoting Seed Innovation



**BRITISH SOCIETY OF
PLANT BREEDERS LTD**

BSPB House
114 Lancaster Way Business Park
ELY CB6 3NX
Tel +44 (0)1353 653200
Fax +44 (0)1353 661156
Email: enquiries@bspb.co.uk
www.bspb.co.uk

Information from the British Society of Plant Breeders

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INTRODUCTION FROM SAMANTHA BROOKE

As uncertainty continues following changes in legislation post-Brexit, there are still delays in National Listing and concerns over imports and exports. BSPB is working closely with Defra and APHA to seek clarity and offer advice to farmers and our members.

Great progress has been made in the recognition of new genomic technologies as an important tool for the future of agriculture. The House of Lords has passed a Statutory Instrument and BSPB continue to work with Defra to support the successful delivery of primary legislation in the future to change the definition of products produced by new genomic technologies and developing a clear route to market.

This legislation will enable UK plant breeders to continue their established world-leading research and development which brings crucial new varieties to farmers. Using this new technology will help to contribute to agricultural productivity, which is vital in these challenging times.

Sam Brooke, BSPB Chief Executive



SUGAR BEET FOCUS

The UK sugar industry has benefited greatly from plant breeding over the last two decades, with advancements helping to boost both the yield and agronomic features of UK sugar beet. Research and development have been key to this, helping to bring new genetics to the industry to help overcome legislative and environmental challenges.

It is critical that investment continues to help sugar beet remain a competitive break crop for UK farmers. Investment in sugar beet genetics has the potential to find a solution to the impact of Virus Yellows without the use of neonicotinoid seed treatment. UK plant breeders

have a significant role to play in helping to find solutions, such as Virus Yellows-tolerant seed varieties and new seed treatments.

We need to ensure that UK plant breeders don't lose future investment and innovation as this could have a damaging impact for sugar beet production, as well as the wider agricultural industry in the UK. BSPB are working closely with breeders and the government to implement changes to the variety registration system to support the commercialisation of new and improved varieties.

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RECOMMENDED LIST

The Recommended List has recently been updated so we asked AHDB's Paul Gosling for his thoughts.

There have been plenty of new varieties added, with a diverse range of types and traits spread across most agronomic areas. Disease resistance and new quality traits feature strongly across all crops. This is reflected in genetic improvements that have been introduced to increase Septoria resistance in high yielding milling wheat. This is testament to breeders' efforts and demonstrates the benefits of plant breeding to yield and disease resistance.

In the feed wheat sector, the yield gains continue to be pushed by the newcomers and the first winter barley with BYVD tolerance has been added to the list. This will help growers tackle yield losses and help mitigate the restraints brought about by continued pesticide restrictions.

There is a new look for spring barley this year, with the addition of a 'described variety' section, which comes with the Nill-Lox trait. This is particularly well suited to brewing, especially for lager type beers, offering better shelf life and head quality.

Having moved away from recognising the Common Catalogue post-Brexit, ensuring new OSR genetics

are tested through the National List and Recommended List system is ever more important. It is therefore encouraging to see new varieties being added this year. Importantly, we are also seeing some steps forward and genetic differences in disease resistance. The listing process for OSR has also been changed to make it easier for conventional varieties to be featured on the list.



■ Paul Gosling

Lastly, Clearfield varieties with a higher tolerance to some herbicides including imidazolinone, have been added. This offers UK farmers greater choice in a small but important market and has shown big increases that will help to cut down potential yield penalties.

DECLARATIONS

Making your farm saved seed declaration online is quick and easy, and it will save you a trip to the post box. All you need to do is follow the instructions on the website. When you make your declaration, a confirmation email receipt will be sent straight to you for reference and, when your declaration has been processed, you will automatically receive an invoice.

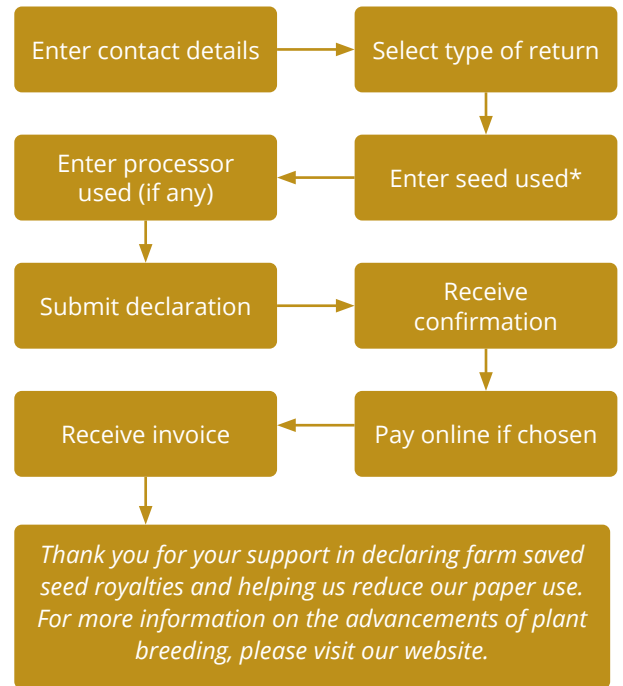
Going paperless when declaring online is easy and you can just tick a box at the bottom of the contact page. There is also a benefit for contractors and land agents who will receive one email for all farms that they are responsible for.

All future declarations will be sent by email with a link to declare. Once you have created a paperless account, the form will pre-populate your contact details to save you time.

Guidance is available on the website and the team are more than happy to help on 01353 653209.

Declaration Process

Visit www.bspb.co.uk and navigate to the seed declarations page. This will take you to returns.bspb.co.uk where you can start your declaration online. The process that follows is illustrated opposite:



* variety and hectares are mandatory fields

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