

AHDB Recommended Lists for cereals and oilseeds (RL) 2026/27: NEW variety comments

These comments relate to new varieties added the RL 2026/27 online tables (1 December 2025).

Access the online tables and comments for established varieties via the RL homepage: ahdb.org.uk/rl

Wheat

Winter wheat 2026/27

Please note that comments made on resistance to orange wheat blossom midge and *Barley yellow dwarf virus* (BYDV) are based on advice from plant breeders. These have not been verified in RL tests.

UKFM Group 1 varieties

Arlington (NEW)

Marston x Skyfall

Quality: This new addition is a provisional UKFM Group 1 variety recommended for the UK. It has given high Hagbergs, specific weights and good proteins under a regime to achieve milling specification.

Agronomy: This short, stiff-strawed variety has a high yield potential in the East region and on heavy soils. Over the three years of testing, it has shown no major weaknesses in disease resistance and has given very high yields in untreated UK trials. Arlington has high resistance to yellow rust and septoria tritici, combined with resistance to orange wheat blossom midge. It carries the *Pch1* eyespot resistance gene.

Arlington is a provisional UKFM Group 1 variety. Its status will be confirmed in spring 2026 once commercial assessments have been completed.

UKFM Group 2 varieties

KWS Grebe – ukp (NEW)

Quality: This new addition is a UKFM Group 2 variety recommended for the UK. It is classified as a **ukp** bread wheat for export. It has given high Hagbergs and good proteins under a regime to achieve milling specification.

Agronomy: This short, stiff-strawed variety has a very high treated yield potential in the North region (based on limited data). KWS Grebe has high treated yields in the East and West regions, on heavy soils and across rotational positions. This relatively early maturing variety has given high yields in untreated UK trials. It is resistant to orange wheat blossom midge.

Soft Group 4 varieties

Sparkler – uks, distilling: high (NEW)

Graham x LG Skyscraper

Quality: This new addition is a soft-milling feed variety recommended for the UK. It is classified as a **uks** soft wheat for export and is rated as 'high' for distilling.

Agronomy: This variety has a very high treated yield potential throughout the UK and across a range of rotational positions and soil types (based on some limited data). Sparkler has high resistance to yellow rust and septoria tritici and has given high yields in UK untreated trials. It is susceptible to brown rust. This medium-tall variety has moderate straw strength that requires careful management.

Hard Group 4 varieties

KWS Aintree (NEW)

Quality: This new addition is a hard-milling feed variety recommended for the UK. It has given high Hagbergs and specific weights.

Agronomy: This medium-tall variety has a very high treated yield potential throughout the UK and across a range of rotational positions and soil types (based on some limited data). KWS Aintree is resistant to orange wheat blossom midge but is very susceptible to yellow rust.

LG Defiance (NEW)

Quality: This new addition is a hard-milling feed variety recommended for the UK.

Agronomy: This variety has a very high treated yield potential throughout the UK and across a range of rotational positions and soil types (based on some limited data). It has given very high yields in UK untreated trials. LG Defiance has high resistance to mildew, yellow rust and fusarium ear blight (based on limited data), combined with resistance to orange wheat blossom midge. This tall variety has relatively weak straw that requires careful management.

LG Challenger (NEW)

Quality: This new addition is a hard-milling feed variety recommended for the UK. It has given high Hagbergs and specific weights.

Agronomy: This medium-tall variety has a very high treated yield potential throughout the UK and across a range of rotational positions and soil types (based on some limited data). It has given very high yields in UK untreated trials. LG Challenger has high resistance to mildew, yellow rust and fusarium ear blight (based on limited data), combined with resistance to orange wheat blossom midge. Limited data suggests that this variety may have a tendency to sprout, so it should be given priority at harvest.

KWS Fowlmere – ukp (NEW)

Quality: This new addition is a hard-milling feed variety recommended for the UK. It is classified as a **ukp** bread wheat for export. It has given high Hagbergs and specific weights.

Agronomy: This early maturing variety has a very high treated yield potential throughout the UK and across a range of rotational positions and soil types (based on some limited data). It has given high yields in UK untreated trials. KWS Fowlmere has high resistance to fusarium ear blight (based on limited data), combined with resistance to orange wheat blossom midge. This medium-tall variety has moderate straw strength that requires careful management.

RGT Guardsman (NEW)

Quality: This new addition is a hard-milling feed variety with a specific recommendation for resistance to *Barley yellow dwarf virus* (BYDV). It has a low specific weight.

Agronomy: This variety has given high treated yields throughout the UK and has a very high yield potential in a second-cereal position. It has given high yields in UK untreated trials. RGT Guardsman has high resistance to yellow rust and is the only winter wheat variety on the recommended list for 2026/27 rated as 'r' for resistance to yellow rust at the young plant stage. It is a medium tall variety with very weak straw that requires careful management. Limited data suggests that this variety may have a tendency to sprout, so it should be given priority at harvest.

Spring wheat 2026

Please note that comments made on resistance to orange wheat blossom midge are based on advice from plant breeders. It has not been verified in RL tests.

UKFM Group 1 varieties

Charland (NEW)

Quality: This new addition is a UKFM Group 1 variety for spring sowing, with a specific recommendation for white grain wheat. It has given high Hagbergs and specific weights, combined with good grain proteins.

Agronomy: Charland has high resistance to brown rust combined with resistance to orange wheat blossom midge. However, it is susceptible to yellow rust. It is a short and relatively early maturing variety.

Group 4 feed varieties

Merkawa (NEW)

Quality: This new addition is a hard feed variety for spring sowing. It has given high Hagbergs and good grain proteins.

Agronomy: It has given high treated yields in spring sowings. Merkawa has very high resistance to mildew, and high resistance to yellow rust and brown rust. It is a short and relatively early maturing variety.

WPB Clifden (NEW)

Quality: This new addition is a hard feed variety for spring sowing. It has given high Hagbergs and good grain proteins.

Agronomy: This variety has given high treated yields in spring sowings. WPB Clifden is a short variety with very high resistance to mildew.

Barley

Winter barley 2026/27

Please note that comments made on resistance to *Barley yellow dwarf virus* (BYDV), *Barley mild mosaic virus* (BaMMV), *Barley yellow mosaic virus* (BaYMV) strain 1 and strain 2 and wheat dwarf virus (WDV) are based on advice from plant breeders. These have not been verified in RL tests.

Winter barley two-row feed

LG Catapult (NEW)

This new addition is a high-yielding two-row feed variety with a specific recommendation for the UK for its resistance to *Barley yellow dwarf virus* (BYDV). It has given high treated yields in the West region (based on limited data) and on heavier soils and has a very high yield potential for the East region. LG Catapult has high resistance to brown rust and has given high yields in untreated UK trials. It is resistant to the common strains of barley mosaic viruses (BaMMV and BaYMV strain 1). It has a very high specific weight.

Darcie (NEW)

Valerie x KWS Orwell

This new addition is a high-yielding two-row feed variety recommended for the East region. It has given high treated yields in the North region (based on limited data) and on heavier soils. It has a very high yield potential in the East region. Darcie has high resistance to rhynchosporium and is resistant to the common strains of barley mosaic viruses (BaMMV, BaYMV strain 1 and BaYMV strain 2). It has a very high specific weight.

Winter barley six-row feed

SY Barnabus (NEW)

This new addition is a very high-yielding six-row hybrid feed variety recommended for the UK. It has performed well across all regions and soil types, with a very high yield potential in the East and West regions (based on limited data) and on both light and heavier soils. Over the three years of testing, it has shown no major weaknesses in disease resistance. SY Barnabus has high resistance to mildew, brown rust and rhynchosporium and has given high yields in untreated UK trials. It is resistant to the common strains of barley mosaic viruses (BaMMV and BaYMV strain 1). It is a tall variety with a very high specific weight.

Spring barley 2026

The *mlo* resistance gene in barley confers almost complete resistance to barley powdery mildew. All spring barley varieties on the current recommended list carry this gene and can, therefore, be assumed to be resistant to powdery mildew.

UK spring malting barley market share is given as a percentage (%) of Malting Association of Great Britain (MAGB) member purchases.

Malting varieties

Trailblazer (NEW)

Skyway x Hurler

Quality: This new addition is recommended for the UK. It is under test for both brewing and malt distilling use.

Agronomy: This variety has given very high treated yields across all regions (based on some limited data). Trailblazer has very high resistance to mildew and high resistance to net blotch (based on limited data) but is susceptible to brown rust. It is a stiff-strawed variety (based on limited data) with moderate resistance to brackling.

Roulette (NEW)

(LG Tosca x Spinner) x SY Fable

Quality: This new addition is recommended for the UK. It is under test for both brewing and malt distilling use.

Agronomy: This variety has given high treated yields in both the East and North regions and has a very high yield potential in the West region (based on limited data). Roulette has very high resistance to mildew and has given high yields in untreated UK trials. It is susceptible to rhynchosporium. This later-maturing variety has moderate resistance to brackling.

Shona (NEW)

Firefoxx x LG Serengeti

Quality: This new addition is recommended for the East region. It is under test for both brewing and malt distilling use.

Agronomy: This variety has given very high treated yields in the East region. Shona has high resistance to mildew and net blotch (based on limited data) but is susceptible to brown rust and rhynchosporium. It has moderate resistance to brackling.

Nolan (NEW)

LG Figaro x SJ180776

Quality: This new addition is recommended for the UK. It is under test for both brewing and malt distilling use. It tends to give a low specific weight.

Agronomy: This variety has given high treated yields in the North and West regions (based on limited data). Nolan has very high resistance to mildew and high resistance to net blotch (based on limited data) but is susceptible to brown rust. This short variety has moderate resistance to brackling.

Oats

Winter oats 2026/27

Husked varieties

Rannoch (NEW)

This new addition is a very high-yielding husked variety with tall straw. Rannoch has high resistance to the common strains of crown rust, which contributes to a high untreated yield, but is susceptible to mildew. It has a high kernel content but a low specific weight.

Spring oats 2026

Husked varieties

Jacky (NEW)

Delfin x Symphony

This new addition is a high-yielding husked variety. Jacky has high resistance to mildew and has given high yields in untreated UK trials. However, this variety is susceptible to crown rust. Jacky is an early maturing variety and has moderate straw strength (based on limited data).

Neptun (NEW)

Lion x Delfin

This new addition is a high-yielding husked variety. Neptun has high resistance to mildew and has given high yields in untreated UK trials. This early maturing variety has moderate straw strength (based on limited data). This variety has a high specific weight and high kernel content.

Winter oilseed rape

Winter oilseed rape 2026/27

Please note that comments made on resistance to *Turnip yellows virus* (TuYV), clubroot and pod shatter resistance are based on advice from plant breeders. These have not been verified in RL tests.

Bachus (NEW)

This new addition is a conventional, open-pollinated variety recommended for the UK. Bachus has given the highest treated gross output in the North region for a conventional variety on the recommended list for winter oilseed rape 2026/27. It has high resistance to lodging and is very stiff stemmed at maturity.

Crios (NEW)

This new addition is a hybrid variety for the North region with a specific recommendation for its resistance to the common strains of clubroot, though it may be susceptible to strains found in some fields. Crios has high resistance to light leaf spot. This very early flowering variety has high resistance to lodging, with good stem stiffness at maturity.

Dompteur (NEW)

This new addition is a hybrid variety recommended for the UK. It has given a very high treated gross output in the East/West and North regions. Dompteur has high resistance to light leaf spot and stem canker combined with resistance to *Turnip yellows virus* (TuYV). This relatively tall variety has high resistance to lodging, with good stem stiffness at maturity. Dompteur is early flowering and has resistance to pod shatter.

Karat (NEW)

This new addition is a hybrid variety recommended for the UK. It has given a very high treated gross output in the East/West and North regions. Karat has high resistance to light leaf spot and stem canker combined with resistance to *Turnip yellows virus* (TuYV) and moderate resistance to verticillium (based on limited data). This relatively tall variety has high resistance to lodging, with good stem stiffness at maturity.

KWS Domingos (NEW)

This new addition is a hybrid variety recommended for the UK. It has given a very high treated gross output in the East/West and North regions (based on limited data). KWS Domingos has high resistance to light leaf spot and stem canker, combined with resistance to *Turnip yellows virus* (TuYV). This relatively tall variety has high resistance to lodging (based on limited data), with good stem stiffness at maturity. KWS Domingos has resistance to pod shatter.

LG Calvin CL (NEW)

A new Clearfield® hybrid variety for the UK, with a specific recommendation for its tolerance to specific imidazolinone herbicides. LG Calvin CL is susceptible to verticillium (based on limited data). This relatively early maturing variety has high resistance to lodging and good stem stiffness at maturity. It has resistance to pod shatter. Growers are advised to see the BASF website (agricentre.basf.co.uk) for more information about Clearfield® management and husbandry.

Described varieties

Eriksen (NEW)

A high erucic acid rape (HEAR) variety described for the UK. HEAR varieties have a different oil profile (having around 50% erucic acid, compared with less than 2% for '00' varieties). They have a variety of industrial uses, such as specialist lubricants, inks, cosmetics and slip agents. Growers should take action to prevent high erucic volunteers (which can lead to deductions or rejections) from appearing in subsequent '00' oilseed rape crops. Eriksen has high resistance to stem canker combined with moderate resistance to verticillium (based on limited data) and resistance to *Turnip yellows virus* (TuYV). It has high resistance to lodging (based on limited data), with good stem stiffness at maturity.