

Vining Pea Update

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Docking Trials Days 2011

Our Docking trials fields will again be opened to our customers this summer.

We will be able to show you our new varieties alongside the old favorites but this year we hope to be able to demonstrate more than just variety trials. We have a trial to further investigate the benefits of new seed treatments in the hope that full UK approval is now imminent! There is also a first look at how our varieties perform at different sowing rates. We think that there will be plenty to see and hopefully much to learn.



It is always difficult to choose a suitable day for trials visits. Drilling and harvesting start and finish at different times for different groups and, of course, the weather often changes plans at very short notice. Other commitments also take up time at this busy time of year. So, this year there will be three open days at Docking, all at different times

and on different days. Refreshments will be at one of the local pubs.

The times and dates will be as follows:

Monday 6th June, 18.30

Followed by an Evening meal

Thursday 9th June, 10.30

Followed by Lunch

Monday 13th June, 14.00

Followed by Afternoon Tea

We hope that given the selection of times and dates that one of them will suit you. The session on the 9th June is the morning after the PGRO open day. This we hope will give those with further to travel the chance to visit both sites.

The trials days are important to us. It allows us to make sure that our breeding programme is focused strongly on market requirements. For this reason your input into the day will be very welcome.

If you would like to join us then please contact George Hunter

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2011 Trials

The aim of our trials work is to provide the grower with as much information about our varieties as we can. This is essential if we are to get the very best performances from them.

This year we will be looking at variety interactions with sowing

date, soil type, sowing rates and seed treatments. We will be trialling our portfolio against other varieties in the market place. We will also continue to trial all of our varieties across Europe and further afield.

Right: Limagrain Vining Pea Trials



Sowing Rate Trials

What is the optimum sowing rate for Charlie? This is one of the questions we get asked most often not just about new varieties like Charlie but about all of our varieties. Does it vary between varieties across soil types and is the optimum the same every year?

This year we have set up trials that will start to provide some answers.

Our sowing rate trial has been drilled at different times and on different soil types. It will include all of our commercial varieties at 4 different seed rates of 70, 90, 110

and 120 seeds per m². We will check the established population on each plot and take all of them through to yield. The results will be analysed to provide growers with valuable target population information.

Agleader GPS

A further investment in the vining pea activities at Docking in 2011 has been the installation of an Agleader GPS system to our main drilling tractor.

The system allows us to drill trial plots and seed multiplications to an accuracy of 1cm. The setup does not require a 'base station' as it will use mobile phone masts to pin point the tractors exact loca-

tion, giving us the freedom to drill anywhere in the country. The main advantage we gain from this system is that each trial plot is exactly the same size; this is essential when analysing results and making selections.



New GPS allows precision drilling to accuracy of just 1cm

We're on the Web

Find more information about our vining pea portfolio on our website



www.limagrain.co.uk/viningpeas

Dedicated Variety Pages

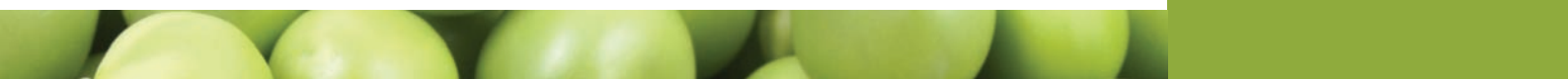
Online Brochure

Ask a Breeder

News & Events



www.limagrain.co.uk/viningpeas



Limagrain Trials in Spain

2011 has seen an addition to the variety trials that we can use to determine maturities, yield and disease resistance.

In addition to our UK trials and trials at the Vilmorin site at Arras in France we have been able to place a yield trial just over the border in Northern Spain.

The trial includes some of our commercial portfolio and all of our most advanced breeding material.

“The data from this trial will be highly valuable and will be used not just to find varieties suited to southern Europe but to test our UK varieties in a very different environment” comments Will Pillinger.

“Varieties that cope well with a range of climates usually give more stable and reliable yields”, he adds.



Commercial Charlie Trials

Will Pillinger, our Pea Breeder, provides an update on promising new variety, Charlie...

Charlie, a new variety from our breeding programme is being extensively trialled in the UK and across Europe in 2011. Charlie is the result of a breeding programme driven by quality. The evidence of our success is clear to see when looking at samples of Charlie fresh off the viner or out of the

freezer with 70% of the sample in the medium size grade and a uniquely dark colour. In the field Charlie has **P o w d e r y M i l d e w R e s i s t a n c e** and excellent early vigour. We are confident that this variety will be a great success.



“ charlie has shown great promise since its first trial eight years ago, consistently outperforming control varieties on medium soils. ”

Will Pillinger, Pea Breeder

TMX Update

Despite several false dawns we hope that UK approval for TMX will be granted in time for 2012 plantings. If we get approval we need to know if and when to use the product. This year we will repeat our

“THIS YEAR WE HAVE THE TMX TRIAL ON 2 SITES”

2010 trial to find some answers. Those who saw the trial in 2010 will know that the trial had the same follow up spray programme as the rest of the field. Many of you asked what would happen if we omitted the insecticide from the follow up programme. This year we have put the TMX trial on 2 sites. One site has a single

TMX trial which will receive the same spray programme as the rest of the field. The second site has 2 trials. The first will get the same spray programme as the rest of the field whilst the other will have the insecticide removed from the programme. The results should be very interesting

Below: Netted TMX Trial at Wolferton





New Appointment Strengthens Team

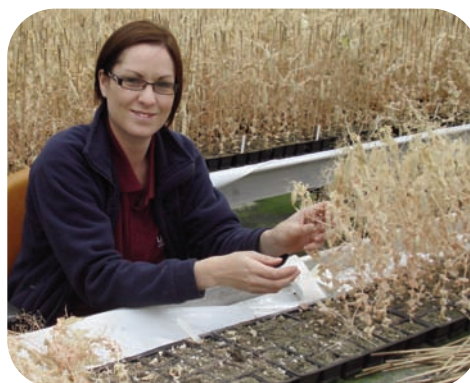
Laura Atkinson who many of you met at last November's conference has decided to move on and pursue an academic career with Reading University.

The Position of Assistant Breeder has been filled by **Emma Skipper**.

"I have joined the pea breeding team at Docking as a plant breeding assistant.

"WORKING AT LIMAGRAIN WILL PROVIDE AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN EXPERIENCE OF COMMERCIAL PLANT BREEDING"

My role will be varied involving glasshouse and field work, such as plant maintenance, bud pollinations, harvesting and evaluation of agronomic traits.



Emma Skipper joins the Limagrain vining pea team as Assistant Breeder



My interests are in postharvest quality of horticultural crops, plant genetics and crop improvement. I have recently completed a PhD in Plant and Environmental Studies at the University of Warwick, which combined aspects of plant breeding with molecular biology to investigate the genetics underlying head yellowing, vitamin C content and other quality traits in broccoli. Working at Limagrain will provide an exciting opportunity to gain experience of a commercial plant breeding program and allow me to learn about the production of new varieties.

contact the team

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Feedback

If you would like give a response to any of the topics in our Spring LG vining peas newsletter, then we would welcome any you may have.

We hope that this will fuel some feedback and discussions about how we can improve the methods we use to produce new and desirable vining pea varieties.

We have tried to produce a summary of the work that we are carrying out in 2011 and to update you on some interesting and new developments in the breeding programme.



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