

New Project

FV 202f

Field vegetables: An evaluation of autumn/winter cauliflower, spring cabbage cultivars and other winter Brassica crops.

Project Number: FV 202f

Title: Field vegetables: An evaluation of autumn/winter cauliflower, spring cabbage cultivars and other winter Brassica crops.

Start and end dates: 1st April 2011 to 30th June 2014

Project Leader: Bill Herring, Duchy College

Industry Representative: Ellis Luckhurst

Location: Trevarnon Farm, Gwithian, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 5EB

HDC Cost: £29,700

Project Summary:

The evaluation of yield and quality of commercially available cultivars and new selections/cultivars of Autumn/Winter Cauliflower, Spring Cabbage and Pointed Cabbage cultivars grown in the major Brassica production areas of the UK.

Aims & Objectives:

(i) Project aim(s):

Overall aim of the project

To compare and evaluate the seasonal performance of autumn/winter cauliflower and spring cabbage cultivars for yield, harvesting period and quality in order to provide up to date data for the industry. Comments on disease tolerance, shape, colour and suitability for various market outlets is also recorded. This will be presented via a regularly updated website and grower Open Day/Information Evening providing technical and crop management information.

<http://www.cornwall.ac.uk/research/herring/default.asp>

(ii) Project objective(s):

Specific objectives

Autumn cultivars:

Heading late September through to early November.
Spacing at 25,315/hectare (10,249/acre).

Winter cultivars:

Heading mid November through to end March
Comparing two transplanting dates: 1st and 3rd weeks of July
Comparing spacings of 19,760/hectare (8,000/acre) for the heading period November to end of January. 22,230/hectare (9000/acre) for the heading period of February onwards.

Confidential plots:

Cultivars maturing over the whole heading period (late October to late March) as requested by the seed companies. Spacing at 21,193/hectare (8580/acre) using replicated plots. Evaluation over several seasons to ensure suitability prior to commercial availability, and then progressing into the main demonstration plots and appropriate Trials.

Spring cabbage:

Transplanting date: Mid September

Harvest dates: mid-January and mid-March

Harvesting cultivars when 2-5 pieces make 250 g in weight (dependent on the season and rate of growth).

Link local meteorological data to results

Make available meteorological records recorded on data loggers alongside, the cultural, and Trials results on the website.

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HDC
AHDB
Stoneleigh Park
Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 2TL

Tel – 0247 669 2051

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