



AGRI UPDATE

Information from the KZN Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs

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DRY BEAN CULTIVAR RECOMMENDATIONS

Noxolo Mtumtum and James Arathoon

The Agronomy Section within the Directorate: Research & Technology Development of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, the Agricultural Research Council – Grain Crops Institute and seed companies, conducted dry bean cultivar evaluation trials at various localities in KwaZulu-Natal. These trials formed part of the national cultivar trial, which was conducted in the major production areas of South Africa. The cultivars included small-white and red speckled sugar beans.

The trials were planted in 0.75 m wide rows at a seeding rate of 180 000 seeds/hectare. The crops were grown under dry-land conditions and were fertilized for optimum yields, based on soil analysis recommendations from the Cedara Analytical Laboratory. Fungicides were applied regularly from flowering to control leaf diseases. Weeds and insects were controlled throughout the growing-season.

Successful dry bean production is based on:

- Fertilizing the crop according to the soil analysis recommendations.

- Thorough land preparation.
- Optimum planting period.
- Cultivar selection.
- Control of weeds, insects and diseases.

Due to differences in the climatic conditions at each locality and within each season, individual cultivar performance may be affected. Cultivar recommendations are therefore based on three or four seasons' data, thus providing more reliable information. Table 1 indicates the mean yields recorded from the highest yielding cultivars at each locality over three seasons.

Although the cultivars were only evaluated at these four sites, farmers intending to plant dry beans in other areas should consider selecting those cultivars with consistent, good performances at all the evaluated sites. Selections could then be confirmed by advisors with local knowledge or seed company representatives.

TABLE 1 Yields recorded for the highest yielding cultivars at the different localities

KOKSTAD [#]		CEDARA [*]		LOSKOP [*]		GREYTOWN [*]	
Cultivar	t/ha	Cultivar	t/ha	Cultivar	t/ha	Cultivar	t/ha
SMALL WHITE BEANS							
Teebus R1	3.98	Teebus RR1	2.88	Teebus RCR2	2.96	Teebus RR1	1.84
PAN 123	3.91	Teebus	2.60	PAN 123	2.92	PAN 123	1.64
Teebus RCR2	3.87	PAN 123	2.42	Teebus RR1	2.91	Teebus RCR2	1.59
Teebus	3.00	Teebus RCR2	2.35	Teebus	2.47	Teebus	1.20
RED SPECKLED SUGAR BEANS							
OPS-RS 2	4.17	DBS 840	3.49	RS 6	3.23	RS 6	1.77
RS 5	4.01	PAN 9213	3.32	PAN 9213	3.22	Sederberg	1.64
Werna	3.92	PAN 148	3.29	Tygerberg	3.11	Werna	1.62
Tygerberg	3.90	RS 6	3.27	DBS 840	3.01	DBS 840	1.62
PAN 116	3.86	DBS 830	3.14	OPS-RS 4	2.93	PAN 9249	1.56
Sederberg	3.84	Jenny	3.13	DBS 310	2.90	PAN 9292	1.54
Ukulinga	3.81	Kranskop	3.13	DBS 830	2.88	OPS-RS 4	1.53
PAN 148	3.81	Tygerberg	3.11	Sederberg	2.88	Tygerberg	1.53
RS 6	3.80	Sederberg	3.10	Kranskop	2.86	PAN 116	1.52
OPS-RS 4	3.72	OPS-RS 4	3.08	Kranskop HR1	2.80	PAN 9213	1.51

[#]Seasons 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2012/13

^{*}Seasons 2010/11 to 2012/13

For further information:

Noxolo Mtumtum 033 355-9445
noxolo.mtumtum@kzndae.gov.za

James Arathoon: 033 355 9495
james.arathoon@kzndae.gov.za

Crop Production; Agronomy
Cedara

Preparation & layout by:

Michelle Larsen

R & TD, Cedara