

Inta-Ag Mag

COVER CROP SEED IS HERE - SEE INSIDE



**ULTIMATE BREAK CROP
NOTE THE TRITICALE, SMART RADISH AND LINSEED VISIBLE WITH ODD CRIMSON CLOVER**



**MIKE GORDON HAS REACHED 30!!
PAGE 8**



**INTA-AG'S OWN SOYA JOURNEY
PAGE 7**

EASE OF HARVEST IS A KEY FEATURE AT SEMINIS

THE VEGETABLE FARMER UK - JANUARY 2020

This year's Seminis Brassica Innovation Day was held at its usual location at Kirton Holme in South Lincolnshire courtesy of Windy Ridge Veg Ltd, and once again could clearly be identified by a large inflatable - this year a giant broccoli. Richard Crowhurst reports.

In fact, the broccoli was so 0 visible that members of the public passing by had been stopping in order to take photographs. For growers however the attraction was the latest variety introductions from Seminis, as well as the chance to see Tumoba's automatic broccoli harvester in action.



The Tumoba automatic broccoli harvester surrounds the head and then cuts it, before lifting and tipping onto a belt.

Sharon MacGregor, Seminis Sales Manager for Openfield crops, explained that the company has two new trial varieties of broccoli coming through, one of which is similar in timing to Ironman, while the other is closer to SV1002BL, with both performing extremely well in the heat seen from the end of July through to September. However, the latest commercial introduction is Shard (SVBL0224), a new variety in the High Rise® broccoli range for autumn harvesting with improved field holding. Maturing in approximately 75 days with a dark green, fine beaded firm head, Sharon added that;

"Shard has good head weight and storability compared to current standards."

With the consumer market for sprouting and 'niche' types of broccoli continuing to grow, Seminis also had new varieties for this segment. The first was SVBL0068, a new Bellaverde® variety with improved vigour. "It is also higher yielding and less susceptible to 'cat's eye' than Sibsey," commented Sharon. Skytree (SV3623BL) is the first introduction in the company's new 'Easy Floret' range, and features a raised, segmented head allowing for easier harvest and preparation during processing. "This means that there is less wastage, while the longer stems are more edible than some traditional varieties that have been used for this market in the past," explained

Technical Account Manager Grainne Meade. "In terms of our overall broccoli portfolio, one of our key breeding focuses is on head weights and varieties that are suitable for production over the summer months in Lincolnshire, providing growers with uniform crops that are easy to harvest."



Tumoba's automated broccoli harvester working at the Seminis Brassica Innovation Days.

As well as having sweeter, greener stems, 'Easy Floret' varieties have less yellow halo around the florets than traditional compact varieties, making them more attractive when cut, and the variety Skytree is best suited to autumn production.

Also new is the Curdivex® range of cauliflowers, named after their key attributes including exceptionally white curd, new genetics and the ability to provide growers with a flexible harvest interval.

"Curdivex® is our new range of cauliflowers with a brighter white curd which stays white with reduced yellowing following harvest," said Grainne.



Grainne Meade and Sharon MacGregor with new Curdivex® cauliflower Whitex.

"The first variety is Whitex, which was introduced in 2019 and matures in 72 to 78 days." Other benefits of the variety include uniform curds meaning that fewer passes are required for harvesting and high head presentation with less wrapping, making the crop easier to see and harvest, and other varieties will be added to the range going forward.

For cabbage growers, new introduction SV3404JL is ideal for producing head weights of one to four kilograms,

maturing in 140-145 days. "We first saw it in commercial trials this year and it looks really nice," commented Sharon. "It has fantastic storage performance and is easier to harvest as it sits high up in the crop." One key theme across many of Seminis' new introductions was ease of harvesting, something which becomes increasingly important as the industry's labour challenges grow.



New broccoli variety Shard.

One option being investigated by several growers and machinery manufacturers is automatic robotic harvesting, and Dutch machinery company Tumoba was on hand to demonstrate their automatic broccoli harvester. This features a sensor in the head which looks for suitable broccoli plants and then steers a metal harvesting head over the plant. As it lowers over the plant the leaves are stripped, and one head is enclosed. A knife cuts the stem, before the head is raised and the harvested broccoli is placed on a belt for transfer to the packing rig or trailer.

According to Tumoba a single unit machine can harvest up to 420 head per hour, but unlike harvesting gangs, can operate 24 hours a day. Variables such as the height of cut on the stem, the amount of leaf stripping, and the required head size, can all be adjusted and programming can be carried out in the field via a laptop or smart phone.

As breeders such as Seminis begin to produce more crop varieties that are morphologically adapted to mechanical harvesting, and the costs and difficulties associated with obtaining casual labour increase, the moment when machines like this become not only commercially viable, but essential, continues to come closer.

Brandt 28-8-18 Micro T&O
 Water Soluble Fertilizer with Chelated Micronutrients **28-8-18**

Brandt NPK 28-8-18
 + trace elements Boron, Copper, Iron, Manganese, Molybdenum & Zinc

Good multipurpose foliar feed to maintain crop health & colour as they come under stress as it dries out.

MAGNESIUM NITRATE GRANULAR IN STOCK

Magnesium Nitrate supplies plant essential magnesium and nitrogen in plant available form. It is a very pure grade ideal for fertigation and foliar use.

Used to prevent or cure Magnesium deficiency, Magnesium is a central component of chlorophyll which is supporting the function to absorb sunlight during photosynthesis. Magnesium acts as a phosphorus carrier in plants and is essential for phosphate metabolism.

Nitrogen (Nitrate) 10.8%

SOIL CONDITIONING BIO CHAR IS BACK AGAIN THIS YEAR

INTA-AG WILL HAVE TWO COMPOST MIXES FOR 2020:

INTA-AG - Biochar N which has N P K Mg and trace elements plus a small amount of soluble calcium to offset any acidity in the compost and give a boost to soil calcium levels. Analysis available.

INTA-AG - Biochar Compost has double the compost and no added N (poultry manure) but does still have low levels of N P K Mg trace elements. This product is aimed at poorer soils and cropping systems not suitable for poultry manure. Analysis available.

INTA-AG - BIOCHAR N	3-6 Tons/Ha	1 ton Biochar 2 ton Poultry Manure 2 ton Compost 1 ton Sugar Lime
INTA-AG - BIOCHAR COMP	3-6 Tons/Ha	1 ton Biochar 4 ton Compost 1 ton Sugar Lime

For further information please contact your local Rep.

CONTACT INTA-AG ON 09 237 0430 OR ENQUIRIES@INTA-AG.CO.NZ

PLAN YOUR COVER CROP



SMART RADISH

FACTS:

IPM - GREEN MANURE

CLUBROOT - RESISTANT GENE (PLASMIDIOPHORA BRASSICAE)

ROOT KNOT - NEMATODE (METIADOGYE SPP)

SUGAR BEET CYST - NEMATODE (HETERODERA SCHACTII)

BAG SIZE: 25KG

RATE: 15KG/HA



ULTIMATE BREAK - 5 WAY MIX

CONSISTS OF:

TRITICALE PROPHET BARE SEED

CRIMSON CLOVER

PHACELIA

LINSEED

SMART RADISH

BAG SIZE: 25KG

RATE: 60KG/HA



BUCKWHEAT WITH CRIMSON CLOVER

FACTS:

BUCKWHEAT BLEND

BUCKWHEAT SUPPRESSES WEEDS AND ATTRACTS BENEFICIAL INSECTS AND POLLINATORS WITH ITS ABUNDANT BLOSSOMS. IT IS EASY TO KILL, AND EXTRACTS SOIL PHOSPHORUS FROM SOIL.

BLENDING WITH 2KG CRIMSON CLOVER PER 25KG BAG

CRIMSON CLOVER'S DEEP ROOT SYSTEM IS A NUTRIENT SCAVENGER SO IT BRINGS UP NUTRIENTS FROM DEEPER IN THE SOIL & FIXES NITROGEN FROM THE ATMOSPHERE WHICH IS RELEASED WHEN WORKED IN.

BAG SIZE: 25KG

RATE: 40KG/HA

IN STOCK NOW ASK YOUR INTA-AG REP FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

PETIOLE TESTING IN POTATOES



BRIDGET JOHNSON

WHAT IS PETIOLE TESTING?

Petiole testing is a valuable tool used to monitor the status of a range of nutrients, particularly Nitrogen, within the plant.

A large sample size of petioles is collected and analysed in a laboratory, such as Hill or Eurofins. It is important to regularly collect samples over the growing season, in order to get an accurate representation of the nitrogen status of the crop.

WHY IS PETIOLE TESTING IMPORTANT?

Petiole testing is a valuable tool used in diagnosing or predicting nutrient deficiencies in potato crops. This data provides an indication towards the maximum yield of your crop, as well as providing useful data to assist with developing fertiliser programs.

As the pressure of nutrient management restrictions continue to rise, the data obtained from petiole testing can be used to support existing benchmarking tools, such as soil nutrient testing. This will become a valuable practise in order to provide evidence of appealing regulations.

WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME FOR PETIOLE TESTING?

The best time to begin petiole testing is during tuber initiation through till tuber bulking stage.

The first set of samples collected should begin around 40-45 days after planting, and continue up until 90 days, at intervals of 7-10 days. By collecting samples regularly, it provides an indication as to whether additional nutrient inputs are required.

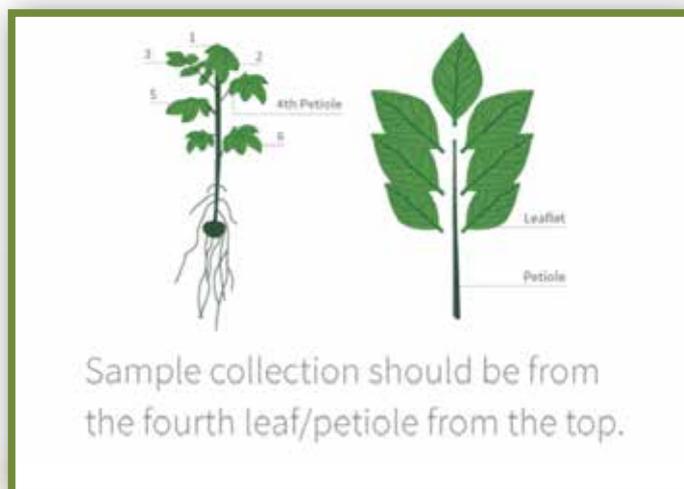
Late sampling can be used as a "Report card", which indicates if the supply of Nitrogen was greater than the crops nitrogen requirements. Excess nitrogen later in the growing season can have detrimental effects on tuber quality, as well as increased chances of nitrate leaching.

Inta-ag will gladly offer their service for petiole testing and would love to work with growers who are interested in improving their monitoring of crop nutrient levels.

For more information, contact;

Bridget

01202263117



SOYA SUITS BEDFORD GROWER'S BATTLE AGAINST BLACKGRASS

FARMERS WEEKLY UK - 20 SEPTEMBER 2019

Bedfordshire grower Matt Broadhurst turned to soya beans to help control blackgrass and improve his soils, and is looking forward to a good harvest later this month.

He is hoping the low-input crop will outperform his spring beans financially and help him slice nearly a third off his nitrogen fertiliser bill for a following winter wheat seed crop.

The late-spring drilled soya crop gives him plenty of time to control troublesome blackgrass, and its nitrogen-fixing properties and soil improvement qualities are added benefits.

"It's a spring break crop so it helps us control blackgrass and also improves our soil nutrient status so this year we are growing 88 hectares," he tells Farmers Weekly.

BENCHMARK YIELD

Mr Broadhurst is hoping for a benchmark yield of 2.5t/ha to give a gross margin of £650/ha in this, his second year of growing the crop, after he was not put off by his drought-hit harvest in 2018.

FARM FACTS

RA Gibson (Colesden) Ltd, Bell Farm, Colesden, Bedford

- 700ha of arable land
- Growing winter wheat, soya beans and spring beans
- Some land rented out for potatoes.

Last year's soya was followed by a wheat seed crop yielding a good 9.5t/ha on his medium to heavy clay loams, and tissue testing on the wheat enabled him to cut nitrogen back to 165kg/ha from a farm standard of 225kg/ha.

The decision to go for soya beans was part of a search for a spring break crop to control blackgrass at Bell Farm, Colesden, six miles north-east of Bedford, where he is farm manager. Oilseed rape growing has been abandoned after severe cabbage stem flea beetle damage.

The first year he grew 40ha of soya beans but yields were only half what he had hoped for at 1.25t/ha, although it still outperformed his spring beans.

FIVE-YEAR PLAN

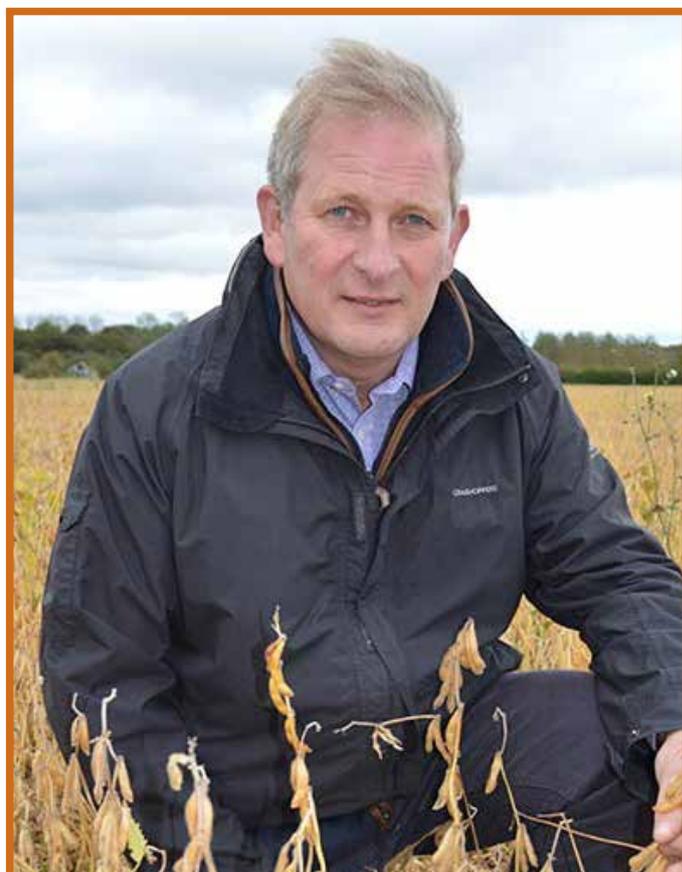
The plan was to try out soya beans for five years, using a cover crop of forage rye and vetch after the preceding wheat crop and before the soya beans. A neighbouring farmer used his store lambs to graze off the cover crop over winter.

The ground is sprayed off with glyphosate once the sheep have departed in the spring, and the land is cultivated with a disc-press combination and drilled in early May at a seed rate of 150kg/ha with the variety Siverka.

Weed control this season was with pre-emergence pendimethalin (Stomp) and post-emergence with a thifensulfuron-methyl/bentazone (Pinnacle/Basagran) mix. The fungicide azoxystrobin is used to protect against sclerotinia and three foliar feeds add vital crop nutrition.

Mr Broadhurst emphasises that soya beans are a low-input crop, and they cost him about £350/ha in variable input costs to grow.

The crop is set to be harvested on about 26 September and desiccation is planned using contact herbicides such as pyraflufen-ethyl (Gozai) and carfentrazone-ethyl (Spotlight Plus), as weed control is vital for the following wheat seed crop.



MATT BROADHURST

TARGET SOYA BEAN GROSS MARGIN

Yield	2.47t/ha
Value	£370/t
Total income	£914/ha
Seed cost	£136/ha
Fertiliser cost	£62/ha
Spray cost	£74/ha
Total cost	£272/ha
Gross margin	£642/ha

SOYA BEANS COULD GAIN FROM A HARD BREXIT

Soya bean growers are likely to benefit from a hard Brexit as other crops could suffer while tariffs may limit French soya bean imports if Britain leaves the EU without a trade deal.

There are currently no tariffs on the 30m tonnes of soya beans imported annually into the EU, and tariffs are seen as unlikely after Brexit on the 3m tonnes that comes into Britain, largely from North and South America.

But in a hard no-deal Brexit, tariffs could be applied to UK wheat exports to Europe and so prices could fall, making soya bean prices and growing the crop more attractive.

Currently, any-origin soya beans from North and South America trade at £330/t while non-genetically modified (GM) beans trade at £375/t. These non-GM soya beans can be grown in Britain or imported from Canada or France.

So the small British non-GM crop could be protected if tariffs are imposed on French imports, says David McNaughton, director of seed supplier Soya UK, which offers buy-back contracts for the crop.

"The harder the Brexit, the better for soya bean growing in the UK," he says.

The soya bean area slipped this year as many farmers, encouraged by high wheat and barley prices, drilled a big winter wheat crop in the autumn of 2018 and a spring barley crop in early 2019, and all break crop areas including peas, beans linseed and soya beans suffered.

The soya bean area had been expected to stay steady in 2019 at the 2018 level of 3,200ha, but fell to about 2,200ha, although next spring Mr McNaughton expects the area to be well over 4,000ha.

He argues that the soya bean crop has the advantages that it can be drilled late - no earlier than the last week of April - while there is growing list of pre-emergence and post-emergence herbicides to use on the crop.

"It is the best combinable crop to control blackgrass," he adds

The Ukrainian variety Siverka, which is the main soya bean variety grown in Britain, is a good improvement on older varieties as it has a thick stem for good standing, three or four pods per node, and generally the pods set higher up the stem to allow easier harvesting, Mr McNaughton adds.

The UK crop is used in food ingredients such as flour improvers and soya milk, and also in small batches of specialist animal feed.

INTA-AG'S OWN SOYA JOURNEY

In September 2018 Shane Smith, Inta-Ag CEO, approached a non-GMO Soy Bean Grower in the UK to commence the process of importing non-GMO seed to New Zealand to provide an alternative crop rotation solution. The process was long and arduous; and from the initial discussions there were hurdles in abundance. The crop needed a growing season inspection and it was not practical to do this any earlier than April 2019. We then experienced a problem with the NZ seed dressing requirements and availability of this in the UK, all of this overcome then came the knowledge that the GM test carried out by Soya UK was not from an NZ MPI-approved lab. The seed finally set sail bound for the Auckland port on 20 August 2019 with 8 pieces of laborious and expensive documentation to aide entrance into NZ, which on arrival were still not enough to tick all the

MPI boxes. With the help of Andrew Bayly Inta-Ag finally had the imported seed released from MPI quarantine in time for planting in November this year, and thankfully we found Growers willing to hold the land and trial the first ever non-GMO soy bean crop grown in Pukekohe. Huge thanks to those Growers for their patience and perseverance; and thanks to Andrew Bayly for his support and contacts, without these people the seed would now be in storage instead of looking great as pictured below.

So why grow Soya? Soya is an excellent, low input break crop, it has minimal pest & disease problems and is rotationally compatible with many other crops. It is a legume crop and leaves high nitrogen legacy for the following crops, up to 200kg/Ha.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SOYA BEAN CROPS?

You are invited to join the Inta-Ag Team

Friday 14th February 2020

12.00pm in Pukekawa, Quarry Road

Andrew Bayly in attendance with Franklin News

Sandwich Lunch Included



MIKE GORDON HAS REACHED 30!!

Inta-Ag's oldest employee/Director has just celebrated his 30th anniversary!

In 1990 Inta-Ag (formally Pukekohe Growers Supplies Ltd) was only 1 year old when Garry Elliott phoned Mike Gordon who was residing in Australia to take on An agronomy role here in Pukekohe.

Back then PGSL was based from the old Don Thomson Motors car yard off Manukau Road and was a team of 4 - Mike, Rod Ketels, Garry Elliott, and the infamous Bill Marsh, who some of you may remember was certainly a character!

Mike covered the Manuwatu, Waikato and Pukekohe growing areas in the early days and still enjoys many of those relationships made to this day. His territory now covers Te Kauwhata, Pukekohe and Karaka.

He settled in Mauku with his wife Lisa 7 years ago after leaving Auckland City and has never looked back, he has a passion for horse racing but loves following most types of sport.

When asked what have you enjoyed the most over the years, "I've loved dealing with fathers, sons and now the next generation and hopefully see the industry navigate its way thru. all the pressures of growing a quality product that we can be proud of.

Mike has always been a positive key member of the Inta-Ag Family, we would like to congratulate him and thank him for everything he has contributed to the company's success over the past 30 years.



REWARDS

If you don't visit the store regularly it's not a problem, our friendly staff can sign you up and add points to your account for you, don't miss out Inta-Ag wants to Reward You!

Email your name and preferred email address to alison@inta-ag.co.nz and start earning points immediately!

Inta-Ag 

FREE REWARDS IF YOU...

Collect In Store

Use the Ordering App

Meet Accounting Deadlines

Purchase Inta-Ag Exclusive Brands

Purchase Monthly 'Specials'