

EXPERT ADVICE
 Avoid lifting too early. Crops continue to grow until the end of October.

FODDER BEET

WHY GROW FODDER BEET?

- Huge yields
- Ideal replacement for cereals
- High energy feed
- Clamp and store over winter
- Improved milk yields
- Palatable and nutritious
- Can be grazed in situ for outwintering systems

SOIL TYPE/SITE SELECTION:

A crop of fodder beet can thrive on a wide range of soils, but a light to medium, free draining field is ideal. A soil pH of 7 is the target and good accessibility is vital for heavy harvesting machinery.

SEEDBED & SOWING METHODS:

Aim for firm, fine tilth with pre-Christmas ploughing. Keep moisture loss to a minimum in the spring. Monogerm seed has eliminated the need for labour intensive singling. However, allow for some field losses if seedbed conditions are poor. As a general guide, soil temperatures need to be at least 5°C before sowing. Early April is a typical drilling date in the south. Sowing earlier in cold conditions can lead to bolting.

Delayed drilling leads to yield losses. Ensure that the seed is drilled to a depth of 2.5/3cm - use the deeper depth for dry seedbeds. A precision drill is essential.

the nitrogen, is best applied in the autumn. The nitrogen can be applied immediately after drilling. The use of slurry/farmyard manure will be beneficial, as is the application of sodium on appropriate soil types. Trace elements (especially manganese and boron) are important to fodder beet.

WEEDS, DISEASES & PEST CONTROL:

Some farmers may be prepared to undertake inter-row cultivations, but good herbicide control is possible to control weeds. It is vitally important to control weeds as their presence can severely reduce yields. Weed beets are very undesirable and every effort must be made to eliminate them.

Our seed is treated with both fungicide and insecticidal products to provide protection during the establishment phase. The crop can be attacked by several pests, including slugs and wireworms, as well as symphylids.

FERTILISER:

This is a demanding crop in terms of nutrients. All the fertiliser, except

SOWING INFORMATION		
Sowing period Late March – late April	Direct drill 100,000 seeds/ha 50,000 seeds/acre	Seed sold in one acre packs (50,000 seed units)
YIELD & FEED QUALITY		
Average dry matter yield 15-18 tonnes/ha	Dry matter 15-23%	Digestibility value 78%
Average fresh yield 80-100 tonnes/ha	Crude protein 12-13% [mainly leaves]	Metabolisable energy 12.5-13 MJ/kg DM
GROWING COSTS		
£1452 per hectare	Fresh weight £16 per tonne	Dry matter £115 per tonne

HARVESTING:

Although the crop continues to put on yield into the autumn, this has to be balanced against the potential problems associated with a late harvest. Some farmers have their own lifting equipment, while others will use a contractor. Machines can be divided into 'leaf' or 'root lifters' – whichever is used, the tops must be removed down to the base of the leaf petioles. Keep soil contamination to a minimum.

ROOT STORAGE:

A pre-cleaner is recommended to remove soil contamination. Clamps should be checked regularly for signs of any hot spots. The high DM varieties tend to store better on a long-term basis and are less prone to damage.

FEEDING:

Fodder beet may be fed chopped or whole. Chopped beet should provide a better liveweight gain in beef animals. Feeding the roots at ground level can reduce the risk of choking. The roots have a high energy but low protein content and make a good substitute for grain in rations for dairy, beef, sheep, pigs and deer. Crops can also be strip-grazed in outwintering systems.

VARIETY PROFILES

TARINE

A new variety which has performed outstandingly in our trials. Tarine has unique, clean, pink roots, with a slightly higher DM content % than other varieties, which enables crops to be harvested later. Tarine is one of the new generation of fodder beets, bred for maximum feed potential from every hectare.

Rhizomania tolerance completes its outstanding package.



BRICK

New, high yielding variety, ideal for growers looking to produce a high quality feed with a higher DM content %. Brick is a true fodder beet and therefore exhibits cleaner roots, but will still deliver very high dry matter yields for maximum feed potential. *Rhizomania* tolerant.



ROBBOS

Robbos has been a consistent performer in the UK & Ireland. High dry matter yields from a medium DM content means Robbos is ideally suited for first time fodder beet growers and its clean yellow roots are easily harvested and can be fed whole or chopped.



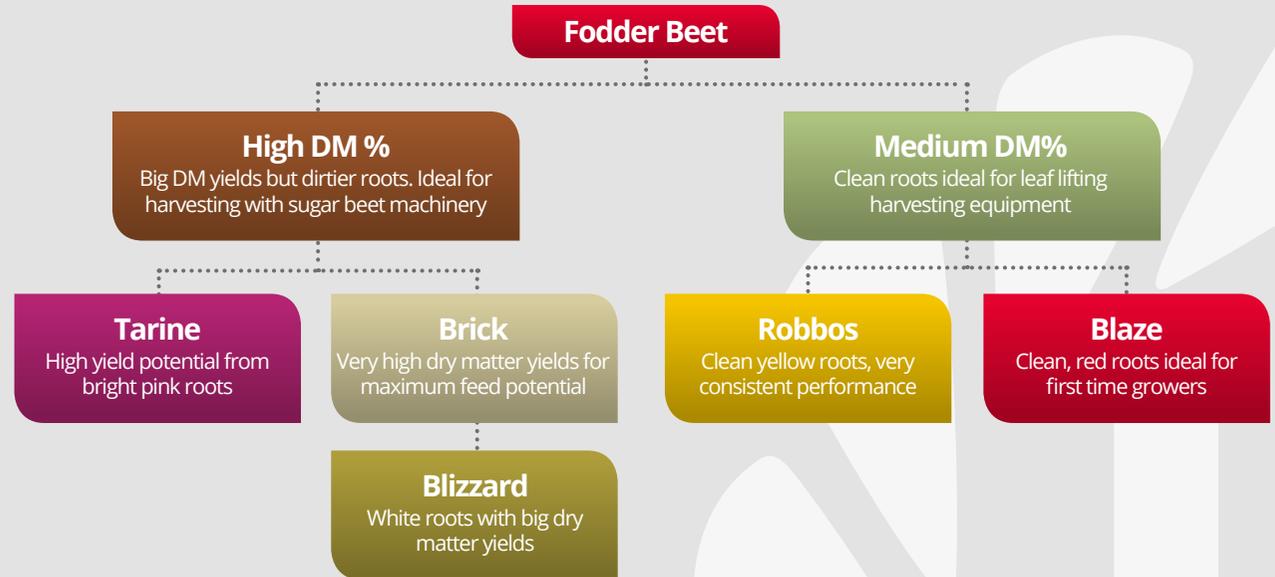
BLAZE

Blaze has the potential to produce excellent dry matter yields with very clean, bright red roots. Blaze is a medium dry matter variety which enables the roots to be fed whole or chopped. Low dirt contamination ensures high intakes with no scouring.



VARIETY SELECTION

Fodder Beet



TRIAL RESULTS

VARIETY	RELATIVE DM YIELD %	RELATIVE FRESH YIELD %	DM CONTENT %	SKIN COLOUR	% OF ROOT IN GROUND	MEAN BOLTER COUNT
100% = Tonnes/Ha	18.3	88.2				
Brick RT	117	103	23.6	White	75.0	0.5
Tarine RT	104	104	20.8	Pink	64.4	0.8
Enermax	101	99	21.3	White	67.3	0.2
Blizzard	101	93	22.4	White	72.3	0.8
Magnum (c)	100	100	20.8	White	65.1	0.2
Robbos	99	103	19.9	Yellow	60.0	0.8
Blaze	95	105	18.8	Red	57.1	0.5
Kyros	93	104	18.5	Orange	58.0	0.9
Jamon	93	108	18.0	Orange	57.0	0.5
Starmon	92	97	19.8	Yellow	56.7	0.9
Jauna	90	94	20.0	Orange	*	*
Feldherr	89	116	15.9	Orange	49.6	1.7
Brigadier	76	109	14.5	Orange	47.9	2.0

Data Source: Limagrain UK Trials 1998 - 2018 (c) = Control, RT = Rhizomania Tolerant * No data available Note: not all varieties are trialled every year, not all scores taken every year.

CROP SUITABILITY

Dairy



Sheep



Graze in Situ



Zero Grazing



Beef



Pigs



Ensilage



Lift and Store

