Winter Oilseed Rape

Oilseed rape is an important crop in Irish agriculture, playing a vital role in crop rotations, with approximately 8,500 ha grown annually.

As a break crop, oilseed rape offers high gross margins and solid agronomic benefits. It improves soil structure and health, reduces pest and disease pressure in subsequent cereal crops and contributes to the overall biodiversity of the farm. It also presents the opportunity for greater control of grass weeds.

Today's varieties present pod shatter resistance, Turnip Yellow Virus resistance and Sclerotinia tolerance, as well as the availability of clubroot resistant varieties.

These advancements are crucial in maintaining high yields and quality, under challenging environmental conditions. The success of oilseed rape in the DAFM and Drummonds trials indicate a strong adaptability and potential for high yields under Irish conditions.

Winter Oilseed Rape Varieties 2026

	Traits & Characteristics	Trial Information	Lodging resistance	Stem stiffness	Autumn vigour	Height (cm)	Light leaf spot resistance	Stem canker resistance	Verticillium stem stripe	Earliness of flowering	Earliness of maturity
PT315	Pod Shatter, TuYV, High Oil	UK National Listed 2023	9	8	6.9	169	6	6	-	6	7
PT312	Protector Sclerotinia, Verticillium Stem Stripe, Pod Shatter, TuYV, High Oil	UK National Listed 2023	9	8	6	165	5	7	PR**	4	7
PT303	Protector Sclerotinia, Verticillium Stem Stripe, TuYV	AHDB UK Recommended, 2024	7.9	8	6	157	7	6	PR**	5	5

TuYV = Turnip Yellows Virus resistance
**PR = Partially Resistant, (Source: ADAS 2024)

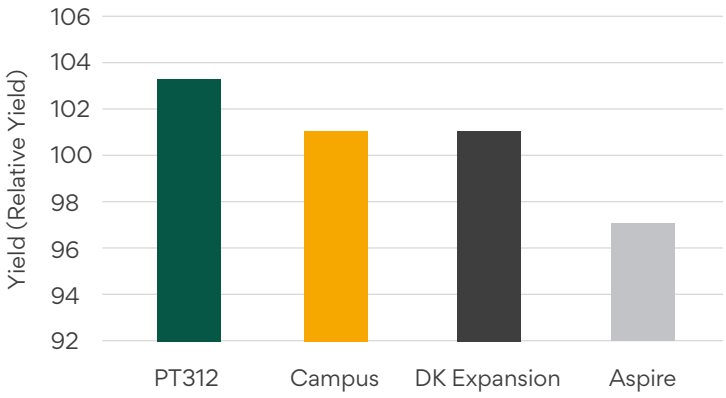
Winter Oilseed Rape Varieties

PT312

Everything you need in an Oilseed Rape variety

Breeder: PIONEER

PT312 Performance in UK+NL Trials



Source: Corteva

Key Points

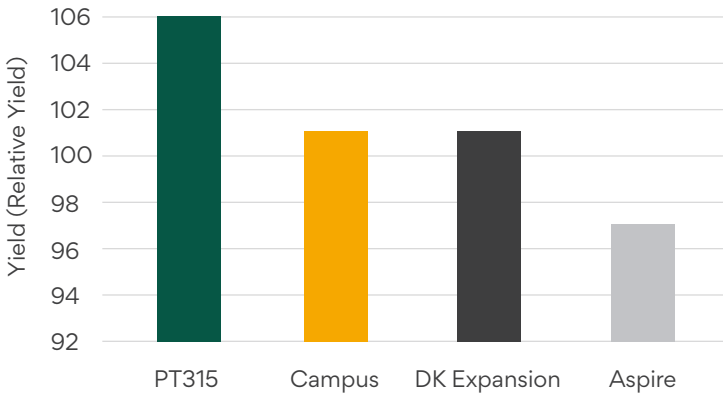
- ✓ A new hybrid variety for 2025 containing all of the key traits for maximum yield potential in Oilseed rape.
- ✓ Strong vigour in autumn and rapid growth in spring.
- ✓ Contains pod-shatter resistance, sclerotinia tolerance and Turnip Yellows Virus Resistance.
- ✓ Strong resistance to phoma.

PT315

The first Pioneer pod shatter resistant hybrid to be launched in Ireland

Breeder: PIONEER

PT315 Performance in UK+NL Trials



Source: Corteva

Key Points

- ✓ Maximise seed yield potential for 2026.
- ✓ Ground covers of over 70% achievable in autumn – reducing pigeon grazing.
- ✓ Contains Pod shatter resistance.
- ✓ Turnip Yellows Virus (TuYV) resistance and multigenic phoma resistance genes.
- ✓ Scored 9 for lodging and 8 for stem stiffness in UK trials.

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

DK EXPECTATION *RISK REDUCER*

DK Expectation combines TuYV resistance with all-round agronomic strength to minimise commercial production risk.

Well-established on the Recommended List, its relatively early flowering and medium maturity makes for one of the longest pod-fill periods available.

VITAL STATISTICS

GROSS OUTPUT	5.66 t/ha
OIL CONTENT	45.2%
RESISTANCE TO LODGING	8
STEM STIFFNESS	7
HEIGHT	5
EARLINESS AT REGROWTH	MID
EARLINESS OF FLOWERING	8
EARLINESS OF MATURITY	6
STEM CANKER RESISTANCE	7
LIGHT LEAF SPOT RESISTANCE	7
TuYV RESISTANCE	R
POD SHATTER RESISTANCE	R

AHDB RL 2023/24 & DEKALB earliness at regrowth data

MAIN ATTRIBUTES

- Solid 4.90t/ha-plus average yields from all sowing dates in 14-site field-scale 2022 grower trials, with notably little difference between them.
- Vigorous establishment and rapid autumn development, offering wide sowing date flexibility and the best tolerance of early pest damage.
- Rapid spring regrowth and early flowering for strong compensation from winter damage and long pod-fill.
- Noticeably lower levels of 2023 TuYV infection than other leading varieties with the resistance trait in breeders trials.
- Good light leaf spot, stem canker and verticillium resistance with strong standing power for the greatest management flexibility.
- Original Dekalb pod shatter resistance, maximising combining flexibility while minimising losses in the run-up to and at harvest.

DEKALB

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#dekalbdifference

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BAYER

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

DK EXCENTRIC *TOP PERFORMER*

DK Excentric is the top-performing new UK variety from the DEKALB breeding programme.

DK Excentric has a combination of performance and agronomy with rapid autumn development, strong foliar disease resistance and strong standing power. Its excellent all-round stress tolerance package includes good resistance to light leaf spot, TuYV and *verticillium*, as well as being pod shatter resistant.

VITAL STATISTICS

2 YEAR AVG. GROSS OUTPUT	5.11 t/ha
2 YEAR AVG. OIL CONTENT	45.4%
RESISTANCE TO LODGING	9
STEM STIFFNESS	8
HEIGHT	6
STEM CANKER RESISTANCE	7
LIGHT LEAF SPOT RESISTANCE	6
TuYV RESISTANCE	R
POD SHATTER RESISTANCE	R

DEKALB Replicated Trials data from 2022 & 2023 harvests– across 8 sites managed by NIAB, OAT & Scottish Agronomy.

KEY TRAITS

VIGOROUS ESTABLISHMENT

Robust initial root and shoot growth for the most reliable and even establishment.

RAPID AUTUMN DEVELOPMENT

Faster-than-average development for the most rapid growth away from flea beetles and other autumn challenges.

DOUBLE PHOMA RESISTANCE

RLM7 supported by polygenic resistance for the most durable phoma/stem canker protection and greatest spraying economy and flexibility.

TuYV RESISTANCE

Effective resistance to Turnip Yellows Virus for extra insurance against aphid-borne infections and greatest spraying economy and flexibility.

POD SHATTER RESISTANCE

Pioneering genetic resistance to pod shattering for the least seed shedding up to and at harvest and the greatest flexibility in harvest timing.

HIGH OIL

Higher-than-average oil content to maximise gross output for added market returns.

STRONG STANDING POWER

A combination of lodging resistance and stem stiffness giving the greatest canopy stability.

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#seedtosucceed

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Winter Oil Seed Rape Seeding Rates

Factor	Guideline / Recommendation	Notes / Purpose
Target plant population	30–50 plants per m^2	Helps achieve optimal crop establishment and maximise yield potential
Thousand Grain Weight (TGW)	Always check TGW for each seed batch	TGW varies between batches and is essential for calculating accurate seeding rates
Seeding rate calculation	Base seed rate on TGW values	Ensures correct plant population and avoids over- or under-seeding
Sowing date - Mid August	Typically allows lower seed rates	Generally produces higher germination and stronger establishment
Sowing date - Early September	Increase seed rate slightly	Later sowing often reduces germination and establishment
Sowing method adjustment	Modify seed rate according to drilling method	
Hybrid Varieties	Typical rate: 2.0–3.5 kg/ha	Exact rate depends on TGW, sowing date and establishment conditions