

# VarietyView

## Introduction

**Bringing new varieties to market at such an unpredictable time in farming is a challenge for anyone involved in the seed industry, but it's one that Senova relishes.**

With an expanding portfolio of crops based on diverse genetics, the company recognises the economic pressures that arable farming is facing and is keen to work with growers to ease the current situation and plan for success.

As such our three exciting new winter wheat candidate varieties are bound to be of interest. **Gibson** is a potential Group 2 re-gen ready variety, a fast developer with excellent disease resistance. **NOS Beast** is a very high yielding soft feed with potential for distilling, superb disease resistance and excellent quality. Finally **Girton** is a hard feed wheat offering flexibility and potential for both the first and second cereal slots. All are up for recommendation later this year and more details can be found in this newsletter.

With such an exciting line-up, our main message is that wheat variety choice doesn't have to be a compromise. It is possible to combine yield, disease resistance and grain quality in one package.

Winter barley is also seeing continuous improvement and we are pleased with what our existing and candidate varieties have to offer. New traits and agronomic improvements are increasingly being recognised by growers, despite the pace of variety change often being slow.

Otherwise, the winter oat market is moving away from its long-term reliance on one variety, with newcomers **Cromwell** and **Rannoch** attracting interest from farmers and millers alike.

Another market which tends to hold on to one variety for longer than it should is winter beans. Again, there is new material and variety improvement to consider, as pulses continue to be mainstays of sustainable rotations.

We look forward to seeing many of you at this summer's events and shows, where we will be delighted to share more details with you about our varieties, both current and future.



*George Goodwin, Managing Director, Senova*

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# Winter Wheats on their way

**We are thrilled to have three new winter wheat varieties coming up for recommendation later this year and believe that they will all be well received by the industry.**

Despite the huge number of candidate varieties coming through the RL system, Senova has good reason to be optimistic about these new offerings and can foresee their inclusion in future-proofed farming systems.

## NOS Beast

Starting with 'the big one' as it is becoming known, NOS Beast is a very high yielding soft Group 4 wheat with an outstanding disease resistance package and excellent grain quality.

Sitting right at the top of the pack for yield at 108, NOS Beast also has a very high untreated yield of 89. Striking a balance between high yields and disease resistance isn't all that it has to offer; it has a grain specific weight of 80 kg/hl.

As our managing director George Goodwin explains, NOS Beast comes with new and diverse genetics which means that it has one of the highest septoria resistance ratings of 8 (7.6), as well as a 9 for yellow rust, an 8 for brown rust and a 7 for mildew.

"These scores have been maintained over the last few years as it has come through trials, so we are confident in them and in the variety's ability to deliver, regardless of the season," he says.

It's a medium-slow developing type with strong winter hardiness and later ripening, adds George, who also reveals that has a provisional positive rating for distilling. "In the north, it has a yield of 114, although that is based on limited data."

He notes that NOS Beast can be drilled from the second week of September in the north, with a week's delay suggested as you move further south. "So for Yorkshire, we would recommend the third week of September while in the Cambridge area we would wait until the fourth week of the month."

## Girton

Moving on to our next candidate, Girton is a hard Group 4 variety from Blackman Agriculture which performed very well in 2025, when moisture was limited and many crops suffered.

With a yield of 105, it is competitive in its group and will be of interest to those who have remained loyal to Graham while they wait for an obvious replacement.

Girton has a good untreated yield of 83, highlights Senova Sales Manager Hugh Harley, as well as very stiff straw. "It is early to mature, so it's easy to sequence with other varieties on farm."

It has a robust disease package, with 6 ratings for mildew, yellow and brown rust, and a 7 for septoria. Bold grain and a specific weight of 78.8 kg/hl add to its appeal.

"Girton is suitable for drilling from the first week of September onwards and is also suitable as a second wheat, so it offers the flexibility and ease of management that is increasingly required."

## Gibson

Our third candidate, Gibson, is a potential Group 2 winter wheat with a yield of 103 and an untreated yield of 86.

It's another one with a strong disease resistance package and good agronomics, which is why we see it as a good choice for regenerative farming systems.

A low-risk variety, Gibson has an 8 rating for mildew and for yellow rust, with 7s for brown rust and septoria. Stiff straw and a fast speed of development add to its attributes, with a -1 for ripening.

"Quality testing to date with Gibson has been very positive," says George. "With its agronomic strengths and high yields, it brings a sustainable focus to this market sector."

More details on all three of our winter wheat candidates will be available at Cereals '26.



**nos Beast**  
WINTER WHEAT 

**Girton** WINTER WHEAT 

**Gibson** WINTER WHEAT 

# Winter barley winners

The winter barley crop has seen continuous improvement in the last ten years, with new traits coming through at pace, accompanied by quality improvements and rising yields.

While variety change in a traditional market can take a while, our existing two-row feed variety **Kitty** has bucked that trend and already has close to 10% market share.

That's not surprising, given its unique combination of high yields, good specific weight and strong standing power – all things that growers look for and value in a feed variety.

## Kitty

"Kitty has taken market from other varieties and will continue to do so," predicts Hugh Harley. "It has the highest specific on the list, very stiff straw and is one of only three varieties to offer dual strain resistance to soil-borne Barley Yellow Mosaic Virus (BaYMV)."

Its UK yield of 103 rises to 106 in the north and it can be drilled as early as the first week in September, he continues. "Trials have shown that it's 5-7% higher yielding when it's sown early."

Kitty also has a resistance rating of 7 for Rhynchosporium and a 6 for net blotch, while its brackling score is the lowest on the list.

## THE WINTER BARLEY THAT'S EARNED ITS STRIPES



**Kitty**  
WINTER BARLEY

## Paquita

Coming up behind our existing varieties is the winter barley candidate **Paquita**, our new BYDV tolerant two-row feed type.

With a UK yield of 104, Paquita is closing the gap with varieties that don't have the BYDV tolerance trait, while also having stiff straw and early ripening.

A strong set of disease resistance ratings and agronomic features complete its appeal, so growers should expect these BYDV tolerant types to become the 'new normal' as IPM practices dominate, believes Alison Barrow, Technical Marketing Manager.

"They haven't really captured the imagination to date but now with the same yield level and a really good set of agronomic characteristics, that's bound to change.

"Paquita also has a -1 for maturity, so it's a variety that will be harvested and dealt with in plenty of time for oilseed rape drilling or for the use of a quick cover crop."

**Paquita**  
WINTER BARLEY



# All change for Winter Oats

New varieties coming through with different genetics are transforming the winter oat market, as it moves on from its long-term dependency on just one variety.

Having joined our award-winning favourite Mascani on the Recommended List, **Cromwell** and **Rannoch** are at different stages of their development – with Cromwell already increasing rapidly in the market and Rannoch due to launch this autumn.

Cromwell performed very well in 2025, reveals our sales manager Hugh Harley, with its UK treated yield of 102 and short, very stiff straw. Offering the highest specific weight and kernel content on the list, he adds that it's a variety that millers want to see more of.

"It's a Mascani cross but takes yields on to the next level and still has the better hullability and lower screening losses that its parent has been so popular for," says Hugh.

Rannoch was added to the Recommended List for this year with a treated yield of 106 and an untreated yield of 92, as well as a crown rust resistance rating of 7.

That puts it in a league of its own, believes Hugh, who points out that it offers a 10% yield advantage over Mascani and will go through a 1000 t milling pilot scheme to confirm its suitability for milling processes and added value contracts.

**Maunsell**  
WINTER OAT 

AHDB  
CANDIDATE

Another top performing winter oat variety from Senova, **Maunsell**, is a candidate and will be up for recommendation later this year. Currently on a yield of 105, it combines this performance with a high kernel content and very early maturity.

A crown rust resistance rating of 8 and stiff straw are further attributes and we are excited to see how Maunsell performs in RL trials this year.

**Cromwell**  
WINTER OAT 

AHDB  
RECOMMENDED

**Rannoch**  
WINTER OAT 

AHDB  
RECOMMENDED

**Mascani**  
WINTER OAT 

AHDB  
RECOMMENDED



# Winter Beans revival as pressures mount

**Renewed interest in home-grown protein, together with a residual nitrogen benefit for the following crop, is putting the spotlight back on winter beans.**

As input inflation and higher energy costs start to bite, the lower growing costs and more flexible workload profile of beans mean that the crop is in favour. Having suffered initially from the introduction of the SFI, winter beans are having a moment.

Our market-leading winter bean varieties, **Vespa** and **Vincent**, are well-known. Vespa remains popular with growers for its yield of 105, good standing ability and strong disease resistance, while the export market favours its large seed size and pale hilum.

Sitting just above Vespa on the PGRO Descriptive List is Vincent. The highest yielding winter bean on the DL at 106, Vincent brings excellent downy mildew and chocolate spot resistance, along with very good standing ability.

An even bigger seed size ensures its place in the market, with Senova's sales manager Hugh Harley predicting that Vincent will gain considerable market share by 2028.

The company is constantly assessing new genetic material, he adds, with climate change driving some of the breeding and selection decisions.

"Beans, and legumes generally, shut down when it gets too hot," he notes. "So that's a key focus with new material as we prepare for what the future holds."

Another Senova winter bean variety, **Ninja**, is short and stiff with the earliest maturity on the list. A yield of 96 is complemented by the highest protein content, at 27.2%.

"Ninja is a good choice for the higher fertility and wetter areas of the UK, as well as being a good feed option," says Hugh.



## Tempting Triticale

**Market flexibility, lower growing costs and easy management are all reasons why triticale is being grown across the country, with the crop area increasing in recent years and now standing at around 27,000 ha.**

Senova has been involved with the crop for many years, but the arrival of both anaerobic digestion and bioethanol production facilities propelled triticale to new heights. Its performance under a low input regime is another reason why its popularity has soared, while its use in animal feed rations continues to evolve.

Our winter triticale varieties are **Lumaco** and newcomer **Bicross**. Lumaco is the highest yielding variety on the Descriptive List at 104, combining this with stiff straw, early ripening and a 9 for yellow rust.

A new addition, Bicross is a different type. Expected to appeal to growers of KWS Fido, Bicross grows away quickly in the spring and has a wide sowing window.

It also has a 9 rating for yellow rust, while a specific weight of 74.1 kg/hl means that it will have a place in on-farm feeding in both ruminant and non-ruminant rations.

