

Faba Bean, Spring Sowing, HRZ South West (Inverleigh), Victoria

Authors

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Aim

To evaluate the adaptability of faba bean cultivars to spring sowing in the Victorian HRZ.

Treatments

Varieties: See Table 2.

Table 1. Site details

Inverleigh	
Sowing date	4 September
Stubble	Burnt
Plant density (plant/m²)	31
Row spacing (cm)	20
Fertiliser (kg/ha)¹	60

¹ MAP (9.2, 20.2, 0, 2.7)

Results and Interpretation

- Key messages: AF12025 and PBA Nasma, which are varieties with shorter season length outperformed varieties with longer season lengths (PBA Samira and PBA Bendoc) when sown in spring.
- Average grain yield (1 t/ha) of spring sown plants was low compared to autumn-sown trials at the same site, which produced grain yields of 4 t/ha or greater. However, AF12025 yielded 1.6 t/ha, well above the mean for the four varieties tested (Table 2).
- Rainfall was below the long-term median for each month from July and surface moisture was inadequate to maximise crop growth of spring-sown crops with a limited root system.
- These yields were achieved with a high sowing rate of 200 kg/ha for an average of 31 plants/m². This sowing rate is unfeasible for commercial seeders.
- The gross margin for AF12025 was \$396/ha at a grain price of \$500/t and \$555/ha at \$600/t, but gross margins were very low for the other varieties (Table 2).

Table 2. Grain yield (t/ha) and gross margin (\$/ha) for four faba bean varieties sown in spring at Inverleigh, Victoria.

Variety	Grain yield (t/ha)	Gross margin at \$500/t (\$/ha)	Gross margin at \$600/t (\$/ha)
PBA Samira	0.8	22	57
PBA Bendoc	0.7	7	40
AF12025	1.6	397	555
PBA Nasma	0.9	97	192
<i>P</i> -value	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
LSD	0.2	75	120