

Faba Bean Row Spacing and Plant Population Trial

The current BMP for fabas is to target a plant population of 25 pl/m². There was some discussion early in the season that the lodging seen in 2014 may have been due to too high a population. To test this theory, a trial was sown with plant populations of 15 and 25 plants/m² and on 7½ and 15 inch row spacings.

Row Spacing Yields

Spacing (inch)	Yield (t/ha)
7½"	6.44
15"	6.09
p	0.003
lsd	0.224
cv%	5.3

Plant Populations Yield

Plant Pop'n pl/m ²	Yield (t/ha)
15	6.15
25	6.40
p	0.038
lsd	0.2401
cv%	5.6

From the trial results, a target population of 25 plants/m² at a row spacing of 7½ inches gave the highest yields.

Precision Planting

The idea was suggested to us via the website after a grower had seen a crop that was precision planted and looked to be a far better crop than the combine sown crop. Unfortunately we don't have a precision planter, so the plots were sown by hand. Establishment was faster and more even than the plots sown by our seeder. However looks aren't everything and the promising start failed to materialise into increased yield.

Planting	Yield (t/ha)
Control	6.034
Precision Planted	6.336
p	0.106
lsd	NS
cv%	4.6