



FODDER BEET

Why Grow Fodder Beet?

- Huge palatable yields
- Ideal replacement for cereal
- High energy feed
- Clamp and store overwinter
- Improved milk yields
- Palatable & nutritious

Typical Yields and Feed Quality

Average Dry Matter yield*	= 13-15 tonnes/ha
Average fresh yields	= 80-90 tonnes/ha
Dry Matter	= 12-19%
Crude protein	= 12-13%
Digestibility value	= 78D
Metabolisable energy	= 12.5-13.5 MJ/kg DM

The figures above relate to roots only. *Tops may also be fed after wilting and will contribute a further 3-4 tonnes of dry matter per hectare.



Typical Costs and Value

	Total Costs
Cost per acre	£610 (£1,508/ha)
Cost per tonne fresh weight	£16
Cost per tonne utilised dry matter	£118
Relative value £/tonne DM	£138
Cost per litre of milk	5.3p
Cost per kilo of live weight gain	34.8p



FODDER BEET

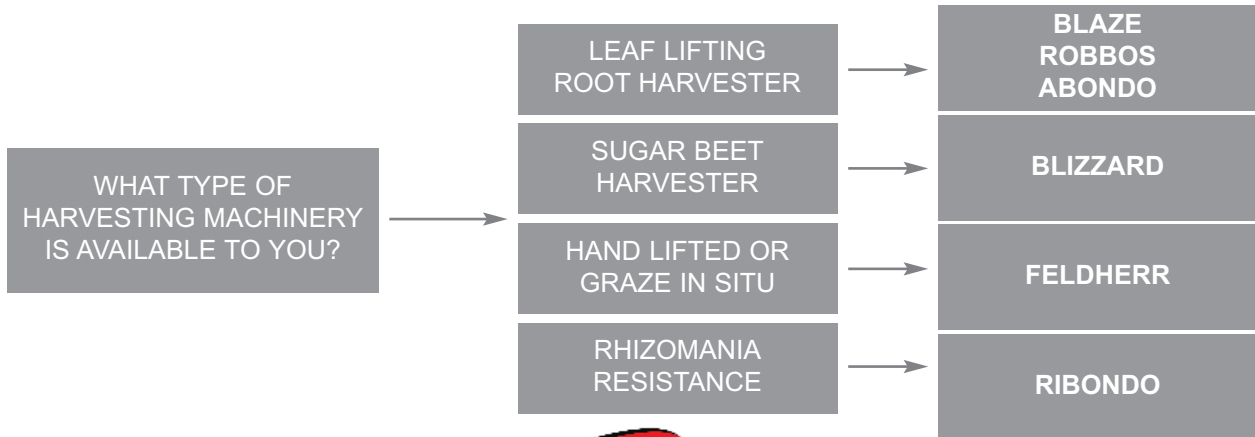
Sowing, Growing and Feeding

SOWING	Sowing Period	Late March to the end of April.
	Seed Rate	Precision Drill only = 100,000 seeds/ha 50,000 seeds/acre
	Soil	Better on light or medium soils to avoid harvest problems in the Autumn. Target a pH of 7.0 Deep lift or subsoil to remove compaction.
	Variety Selection	Select varieties depending on whether you will be feeding in situ or lifting and clamping. Higher dry matter varieties tend to store better.
GROWING	Fertiliser	Apply P and K in the Autumn, depending on indices. Sodium is also beneficial on many soil types. Nitrogen needs to be applied at drilling, allowing for muck and previous cropping.
	Pests/Weeds	Effective weed control is critical so a good herbicide and insecticide regime must be designed for your circumstances.
	Harvesting	Lift in late Autumn, depending on ground conditions. Early lifting will compromise yield but result in a cleaner crop.
FEEDING	Storage	Clamp and protect from frost.
	Method	Wash prior to feeding (or clamping).



FODDER BEET VARIETY SELECTION

Choose varieties depending on harvesting machinery or if you are feeding in situ



Variety Features and Benefits



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.



ROBBOS (formerly Maestro)

Robbos is a recent introduction. It had the **highest dry matter yield** in our trials and with a clean yellow root and medium dry matter content makes it an ideal choice for both dairy and beef production.



BLIZZARD

Blizzard has the potential to produce very high dry matter yields. Blizzard's characteristics make it ideal for harvesting with sugar beet machinery and with its high dry matter content allows growers **extra harvesting flexibility**. It will produce a very palatable feed best fed to dairy or beef animals because of the high DM content.



FELDHERR

Feldherr will produce a **huge fresh yield** of low drying matter roots. It is ideal for feeding to dairy cows but makes an excellent feed for broken toothed ewes that can handle the low dry matter content. Feldherr can be harvested with a mechanical leaf lifter and many crops can be sold as a cash crop.



FODDER BEET TRIAL DATA

Variety	Dry Matter Yield %	Fresh Root Yield %	Dry Matter Content %	Establishment 9=Best	Top Size 9=Large	% of Root in Ground	Dirt Score 9=Clean
Kyros 100%=Tonnes/Ha	16.1 t/ha	89.0 t/ha					
Robbos	109	100	19.7	6.9	6.6	61	7.2
Bolero	107	101	19.3	6.9	6.6	61	6.8
Blizzard	106	86	22.6	6.7	6.4	73	6.2
Magnum	105	98	19.8	7.0	6.9	64	6.4
Blaze	104	105	18.0	6.8	5.8	58	7.3
Tintin	103	95	19.1	7.8	6.8	64	6.8
Jamon	102	106	17.5	7.2	6.2	57	7.0
Ribondo	99	87	21.3	-	6.4	61	-
Juana	99	92	19.5	7.5	6.5	62	6.6
Feldherr	95	116	15.1	7.0	6.6	50	7.7
Abondo	93	96	17.9	-	7.1	60	-

Data Source: Limagrain UK trials 1998 - 2008

Financial Value of Each Variety

Variety	Dry Matter Yield %	Dry Matter Yield t/ha	Dry Matter Value £/ha	Extra £/ha against Kyros
Robbos	109	17.00	2346.55	193.75
Bolero	108	16.85	2325.02	172.22
Blizzard	107	16.69	2303.50	150.70
Magnum	106	16.54	2281.97	129.17
Blaze	104	16.22	2238.91	86.11
Tintin	103	16.07	2217.38	64.58
Jamon	102	15.91	2195.86	43.06
Kyros	100	15.60	2152.80	0.00
Juana	99	15.44	2131.27	-21.53
Feldherr	95	14.82	2045.16	-107.64

The dry matter value £/ha is calculated by using the Kingshay relative value of fodder beet at £133 per tonne of dry matter.