

NEW: Lumen

Status: AHDB Descriptive List 2018/19

New from DSV, Lumen is the top performing variety on the new Descriptive List. It features the highest gross output 105% ensuring maximum return for growers. Lumen was grown commercially for the first time in 2017 and produced some impressive performances, with many who were new to growing spring oilseed rape.

Lumen has a the highest seed yield at 105% combined with a high oil content of 44.8% but by far its strongest asset is its early vigour in the spring, quickly establishing a strong rooting system and early leaf set helping to ensure maximum plant survival against potential flea beetle attack

	Gross Output (%)	Seed Yield (%)	Oil Content (%)	Maturity
Lumen	105	105	44.8	7.3
Mirakel (C)	99	99	44.5	6.5
Makro (C)	101	101	45.3	3.1

The very early maturity is also an attractive feature for growers hoping to get the crop harvested before a change in weather conditions. Lumen is relatively short (138cm) with excellent stem characteristics.

Lumen is packed in 2.1 million live seeds which gives a drilling rate of around 70 seeds per m2. Growers should aim to achieve a plant population of around 55 – 65 plants per m2. Growers should try and resist the temptation to drill too early as temperature and day length will act against the newly sown seedling. Plants will emerge too slowly and will not be able to outcompete the weed pressure and struggle to outgrow pest attack.

Drilling spring oilseed rape at the end of March/early April means less pressure is put on both man and machine. Spring oilseed rape generally only requires around 150 days to grow; therefore Phoma isn't a problem due to its short vegetative stage and specific temperature requirements. The occurrence of fungal diseases are much less than in winter rape, so disease control is rarely necessary.

The biggest barrier to success which spring rape faces is attack from pollen beetle, as the crop is usually the only thing flowering at that time of year! Growers need to be checking for pollen beetle four to six weeks after emergence – remember that once the plant has got to the green to yellow bud stage the beetle will have already done the majority of the damage. It is not uncommon to spray two to three times to help reduce pressure. Growers need to be aware that many pollen beetles are now resistant to many pyrethroid sprays used to help control them – checks should be made 3 days after treatment is applied.

On the 1-9 scales, high figures indicate that a variety shows the character to a high degree.

Date Source: AHDB Spring Oilseed Rape Descriptive List 2018