UK Annual Non-Organic Seed Authorisation Report for 2018

UK authorisations to use seed and seed potatoes and vegetative propagating material not produced by the organic production method in organic farming

According to European Commission regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008, each member state should ensure that a database, in which seed, seed potatoes and vegetative propagating material produced by organic production methods and respecting the general criteria for production of seed and vegetative propagating material can be registered and made available to users.

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Soil Association

Prepared by the Soil Association on behalf of Defra
March 2019

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Purpose of the Report

The UK non-organic annual seed authorisation report provides information on the quantities and varieties of non-organic seed used by organic farmers and growers. This information is intended for use by the seed industry, producers, policy makers and organic control bodies (CBs) to increase use of organic seed and comply with EU regulatory requirements. The objective is to expand the diversity, quantity and quality of organic seed availability so that authorisations for the use of non-organic seed would only need to be given in extreme circumstances. The report also helps to make the sector transparent to buyers and suppliers of seed and consumers.

As a requirement of European Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008, every member state must produce an annual report publishing all authorisations (sometimes referred to as derogations) to use non-organic seed, non-organic seed potatoes and non-organic vegetative propagating material. For the UK, the report is compiled by the Soil Association on behalf of Defra. It is then sent to the European Commission and other member states, and also made publicly available via the Organic X Seeds website.

Market Context

Altogether, sales of organic products in the United Kingdom have experienced seven years of consecutive growth with organic now worth £2.33 billion.[1]

2018 saw overall sales of organic products grow by 5.3%, and in home delivery by 14.2%, with more than 30% of all organic sales now taking place through non-multiple retail outlets.

Supermarket sales of organic produce have also continued to increase, rising by 3.3% this year.

According to the most recent statistics released by Defra, the total area of organic and in-conversion land in the UK saw a small increase (2%) between 2016 and 2017 – reversing the trend of the last ten years. Even more hopeful is the continued increase in the area in-conversion which has been rising since 2014 and saw an increase of 29% between 2016 and 2017. As noted in last years report, if the trend continues this should help to increase home produced organic and reduce reliance on imports.

The number of organic producers and processors also continued the upward trend which started in 2013 and again rose by 3.5%[2] between 2016 and 2017.

[1] Source: https://www.soilassociation.org/certification/trade-news/2018/organic-has-reached-its-highest-sales-ever-at-over-22b/

[2] Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/organic-farming-statistics-2017

Wider Context

The nature of the UK's future relationship with the EU is, at the time of writing, unknown. It is, however, the intention of Defra to continue recording organic data in broadly the same way as when under the EU aegis. The remarks made in last year's report therefore still apply and are re-iterated below.

Varietal choice of seed remains an ongoing concern. The ultimate aim must be to reach 100% organic-seed-for-organic-production while still maintaining the varietal choice available to growers; but how to reach this goal is unknown. Increased levels of non-organic seed use are undesirable within the organic sector as it challenges a key intention of the EU regulation. It also risks creating two-tiered seed costs for farmers and undermining public trust, despite the practical reasons that may be behind such an increase. Continued progress in organic seed, breeding production and usage is important to allow the organic sector to comply with regulatory requirements, protect public integrity and trust in organic food, and facilitate organic seed innovation. There are however some signs that innovation in organic variety testing in the UK is increasing with the Innovative Farmers field lab in Oxfordshire coming into its second year of testing a range of wheat varieties under organic growing conditions alongside a number of commercial variety trials.

The authorisation report is analysed in six main sectors: Seed Potatoes, Arable / Cereal crops, Horticulture, Fruit, Grass, and Forage / Fodder crops.

Summary of Authorisations

The total number of non-organic seed authorisations issued to organic farmers in the United Kingdom increased from 14,254 in 2017 to 15,828 in 2018 – a rise of 9%. The total of authorisations fluctuates from year to year, with the high point of the last ten years being 17,101 in 2011.

As noted earlier, the UK is aiming for a decline in number of authorisations. However, in the medium term, an increase is a positive indicator of the growth in organic land area and increasing consumer demand for organic food. In addition, a glance at the detailed data (on the spreadsheet which accompanies this report) will show that many authorisations, each of a small amount, are given for ornamentals. Careful analysis of this sector is beyond the brief of this report, but the general impression is of a healthy (and growing) market which indicates increasing awareness among the public of the benefits of organic.

Seed Potatoes

Graph 1: Non-Organic Seed Potato Authorisations, 2015-2018

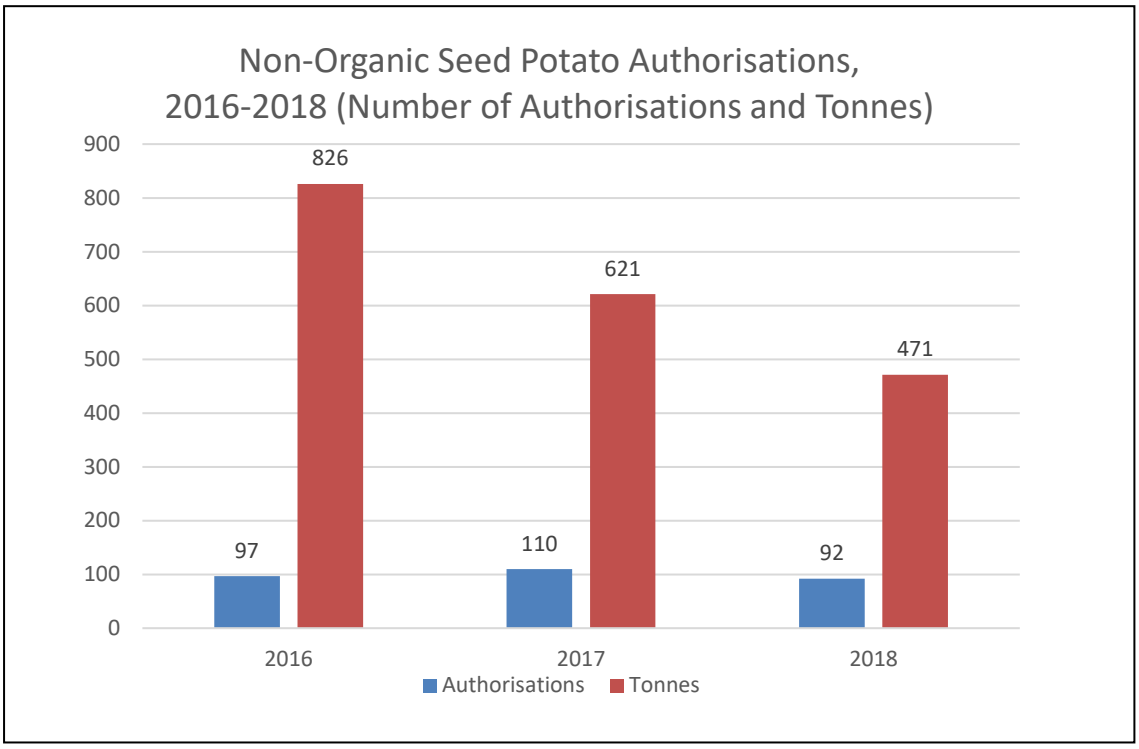


Table 1: Number of Non-Organic Seed Potato Authorisations Issued to UK Organic Farmers 2016-2018

Year	2016	2017	2018
No. Auths	97	110	92

We have seen a reduction in both the number of authorisations (17% reduction) and the volume (24% reduction) from 2017. This is the fourth year we have seen a decline in authorisation volume and this now the lowest volume since 2006.

However, there are still significant levels of authorisations. What we are seeing is that there is still considerable switching to different varieties to see what performs the best. Varieties are often touted as the next best organic variety, and unsurprisingly growers want to trial these before committing to long term production and investment in growing organic seed potatoes.

It is difficult to tie information on authorisations to the area of land used for growing, both for organic potatoes as a whole and for individual crop varieties, so it is not always possible to say for certain whether a reduction in authorisations is due to more organic seed being available or to a lower demand for the variety.

Blight resistance continues to be the main driver for most organic growers, and with continuing issues on the availability and use of copper this will continue.

Bambino - has seen a big increase in volume, though from just two growers. Reports from growers is that this is now the preferred salad variety and generally outperforms Maris Peer.

Valor – has seen nearly a tenfold increase in volume. This is seen as a reliable all-round white variety that can deliver yield, bakers, drought tolerance, some blight resistance and low bruising risk, and so is gaining popularity.

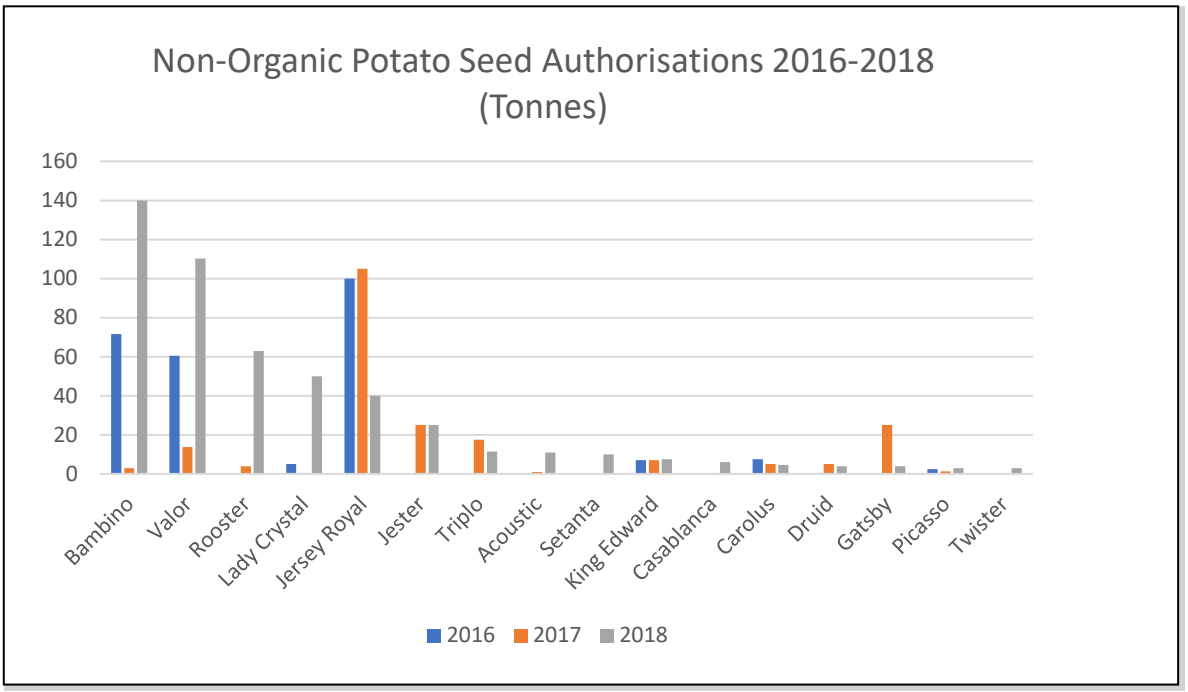
Rooster – it is interesting to see the volume of this variety and probably reflects the general growth in the organic market, in that this branded potato now has an organic offering.

King Edward – remains popular with some consumers, particularly around Christmas, however it is very difficult to produce this seed organically.

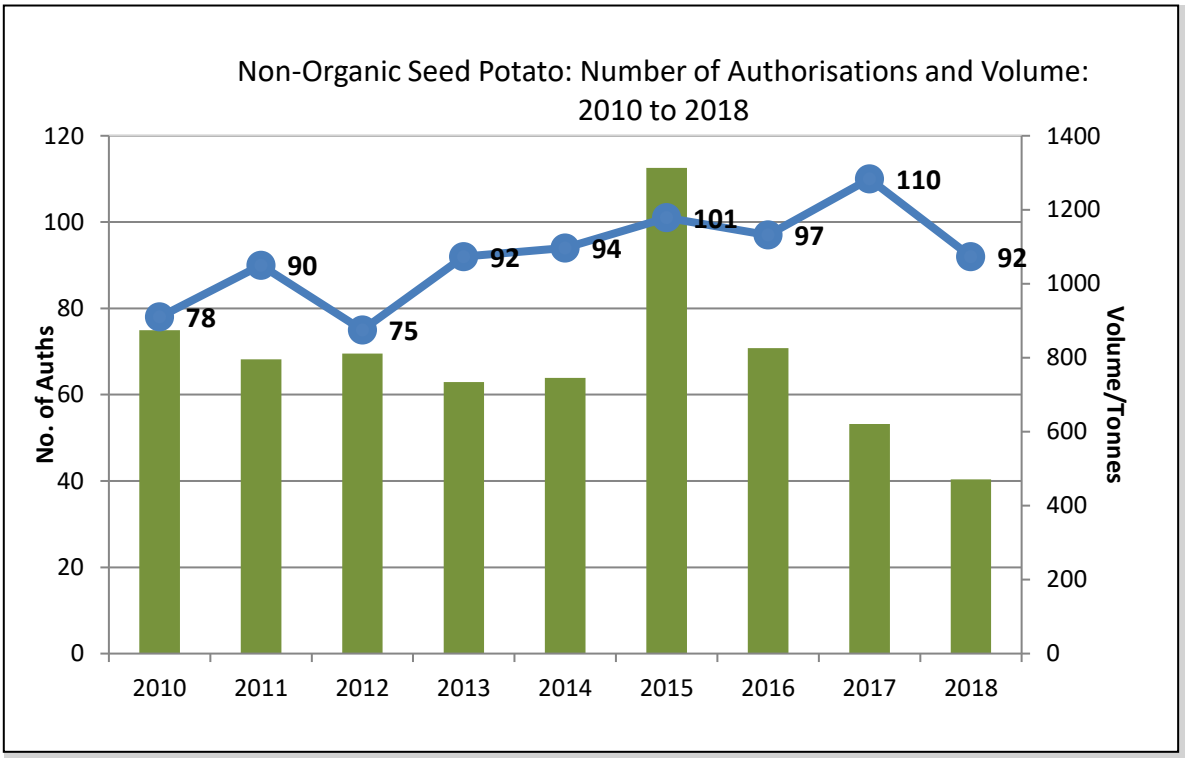
Table 2: Non-Organic Seed Potato Authorisations Issued to UK Organic Farmers in 2017: Top 15 Varieties by Volume

	2017		2018		Change 2017-2018 (Tonnes)
Variety	Auths	Tonnes	Auths	Tonnes	
Bambino	1	3.0	2	**140.0**	137.0
Valor	3	13.7	11	**110.2**	96.5
Rooster	1	4.0	2	**63.0**	59.0
Lady Crystal	1	0.0	1	**50.0**	50.0
Jersey Royal	3	105.0	1	**40.0**	-65.0
Jester	1	25.0	2	**25.0**	0.0
Triplo	1	17.5	3	**11.5**	-6.0
Acoustic	1	1.0	3	**11.0**	10.0
Setanta	-	-	1	**10.0**	*new*
King Edward	1	7.0	1	**7.5**	0.5
Casablanca	-	-	2	**6.0**	*new*
Carolus	4	5.0	2	**4.5**	-0.5
Druid	1	5.0	1	**4.0**	-1.0
Gatsby	2	25.0	1	**4.0**	-21.0
Picasso	1	1.3	1	**3.0**	1.8
Twister	-	-	2	**3.0**	*new*

Graph 2: Top Varieties (by Volume) of Non-Organic Potato Seed, 2016-2018



Graph 3: Number of Non-Organic Seed Potato Authorisations and Volume in the UK: 2010-2018



Arable and Cereal Crops

2018 saw another large increase in the number of non-organic arable and cereal seed authorisations, along with a significant increase in tonnage. Tonnage totalled 1,346t- a rise of 13% over 2017; with authorisations up to 831, a rise of 14% over 2017.

Spring 2018 saw a big fall in tonnage of spring barley (98t), offset by a big increase in spring oats (101t). Oats had been trading at high premiums, with big increase in demand, which explains the demand for authorised seed. Organic oat seed production is very challenging owing to zero tolerance of wild oats, and some farms have ceased seed production. Clearly there is still a problem with supply of spring barley seed, as, although the tonnage has reduced, the number of authorisations remains unchanged at 166. Spring wheat tonnage has tripled, but from a much lower base, with a doubling of authorisations to 23. This could have been linked to the lateness of the season from drilling spring crops as a result of the adverse weather in March 2018. Spring triticale tonnage reduced by two thirds, with authorisations also down by a third to 47. Authorisations for winter rye have increased by some 200% due in part no doubt to the increased interest in this crop both as a forage and for human consumption.

Demand for organic field pea seed continues to stay ahead of supply. 256 tonnes of non-organic seed were planted, an increase of over 25%, with a 24% increase in derogations. This is most likely because of peas being sold as part of arable silage seed mixes, with farmers therefore not saving their own seed.

Organic winter cereal seed supply appears better balanced with demand than in previous years, with lower tonnages all round. The largest category is winter wheat at 143 tonnes, but that represented a fall of 12% in authorisations, and reflects the fact that there are few new dependable varieties. A revival in interest in rye(which is usually grown under contract to mills) is most likely down to the continental drought experienced in 2018. Authorised tonnage almost tripled to 119tonnes, with authorisations more than doubling to 65. There were declines in volumes and authorisations in both winter oats and barley, owing to there being clear preferences in the demand for a few varieties, which the seed companies have been able to supply. Winter triticale stayed constant at a small base of 23 authorisations.

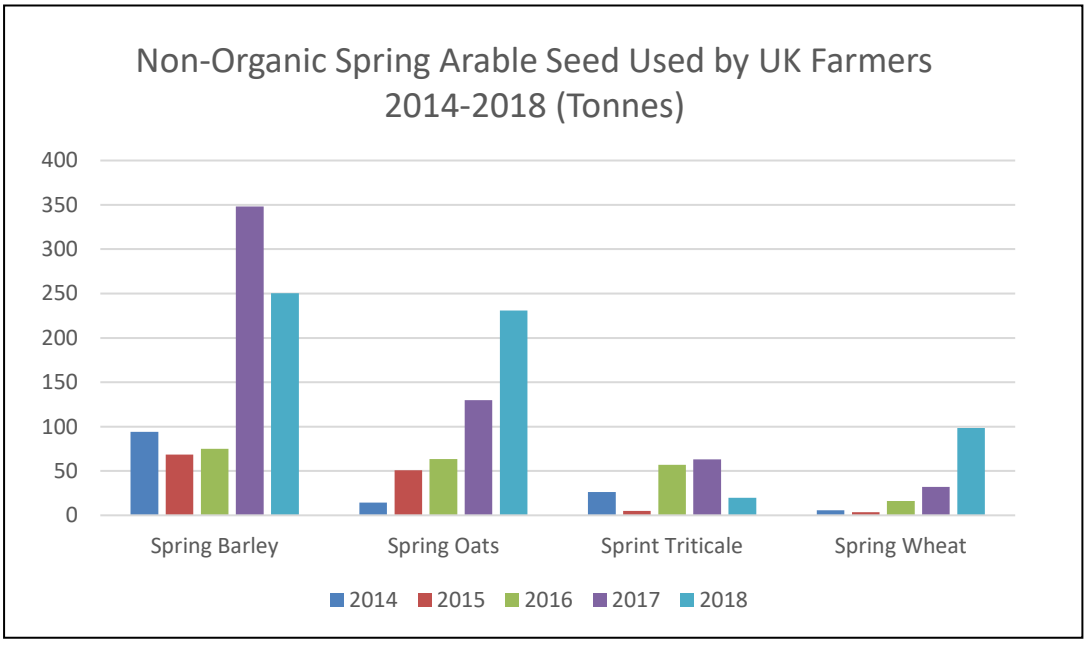
Field beans continue to increase in volume terms (doubling to 105 tonnes since 2016), whilst the number of authorisations has remained constant. This could reflect a couple of poor harvests precluding farm saving.

Early indications from seed marketeers is that the drought of 2019 has adversely affected the availability of arable crop seeds for 2019.

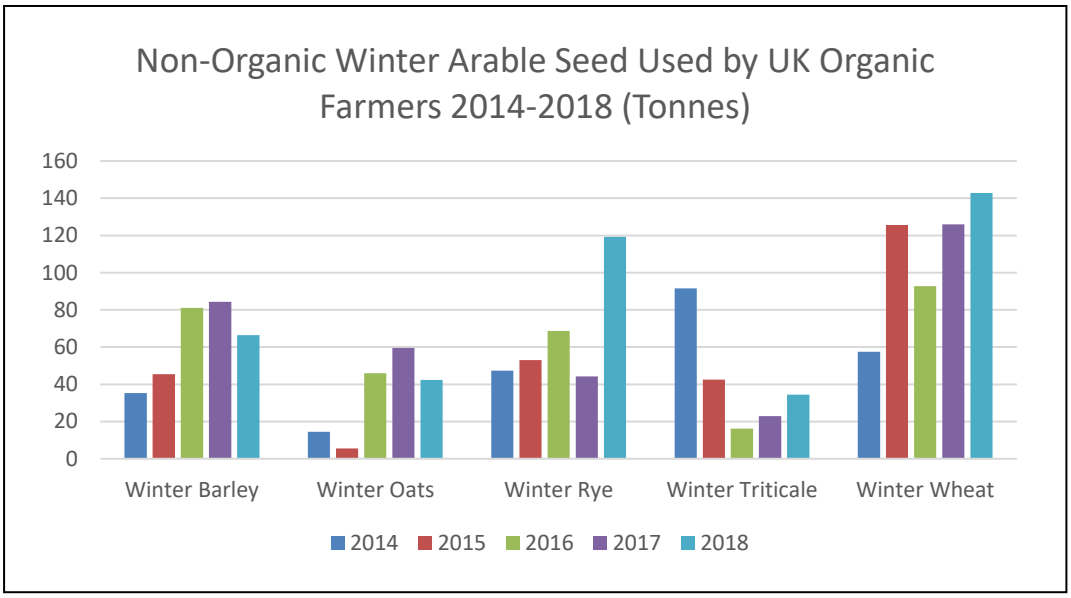
Table 3: Non-Organic Arable Seed Used by Organic Farmers: 2016 to 2018

Crop	2016		2017		2018		change 2017-18	
	tonnes	auths	tonnes	auths	tonnes	auths	tonnes	auths
Field Pea	174.9	191	196.9	215	**256.2**	**275**	59.27	60.00
Spring Barley	75.0	82	348.3	160	**250.3**	**166**	-98.02	6.00
Spring Oats	63.6	56	129.7	46	**230.7**	**99**	101.00	53.00
Winter Wheat	92.7	47	126.3	80	**142.9**	**69**	16.62	-11.00
Winter Rye	68.6	51	44.2	40	**119.3**	**65**	75.08	25.00
Field Bean	51.0	24	84.0	20	**105.3**	**20**	21.25	0.00
Spring Wheat	16.0	20	32.2	11	**98.4**	**23**	66.14	12.00
Winter Barley	81.1	27	84.4	39	**66.5**	**26**	-17.91	-13.00
Winter Oats	45.9	26	59.5	29	**42.3**	**18**	-17.19	-11.00
Spring Triticale	56.8	38	63.6	67	**19.8**	**47**	-43.80	-20.00
Winter Triticale	16.2	12	22.9	17	**14.7**	**23**	11.64	53.00
Spelt	0.02	2	0.03	4	**0.0**	**0**	-0.03	-4.00

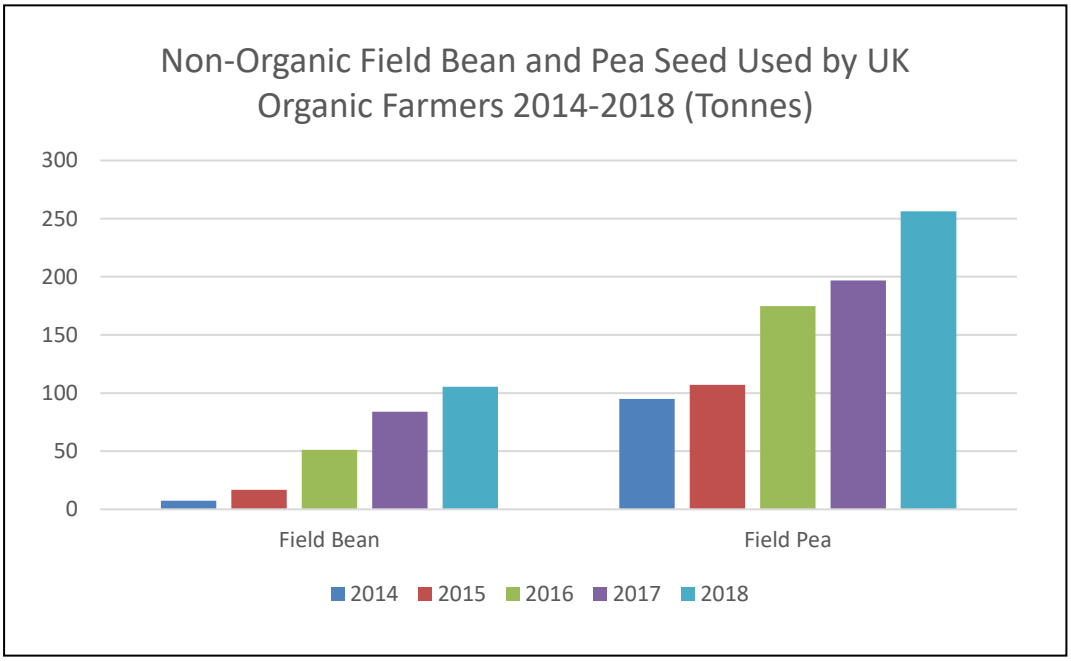
Graph 4: Comparison of Non-Organic Spring Arable Seed Authorisations



Graph 5: Comparison of Non-Organic Winter Arable Seed Authorisations



Graph 6: Comparison of Non-Organic Field Bean/Pea Seed Authorisations



Horticulture

The total number of authorisations for non-organic seed for all species in the horticultural sector increased from **2509** in 2017 to **2996** in 2018 (+8.5%). Due to the time lag in the release of land area statistics, it is not possible to directly relate this to overall organic horticultural production; as although the area of organic horticultural land dropped in 2017 (9,600 hectares in 2017 against 10,200 hectares in 2016)[3] there is anecdotal evidence that this increased again in 2018. When compared against continued growth in sales of organic produce (5.3% increase in 2017[4]), it is not surprising that we have seen an increase in the volume of non-organic seed used.

It remains almost impossible to show a simple comparison and analysis of authorisations for the horticultural sector due to the huge range of different crops and varieties, which are sold and recorded using different units of measurement (by weight, number of seeds/plants). However, seed numbers have been quoted in some significant instances in the accompanying text. Table 3 and Graph 7 below show comparisons for some of the major vegetable crops.

There has been an increase in the number of individual authorisations in almost all the top 20 listed, though this is not always reflected in the volume or number of seeds.

Kale. Though there has been an increase in the number of authorisations, there has been a significant decrease in both weight and seed numbers.

Beetroot – After a large increase in authorisations in 2017, we saw a drop in 2018 (though the number of authorisations remained similar).

Cauliflower – this year there has been a significant increase in Cauliflower authorisations of 13.5% (mirrored by an increase in both seed number and kg figures).

Chilli pepper – though individual authorisations increased, there was a further reduction of chilli pepper seed by number and volume

Lettuce – there was an increase of 10% in lettuce authorisations. As one of the crops that has shown good investment from seed companies, this is an understandable increase in a growing market.

Brussel sprouts – have shown an increase in number of authorisations; however, overall volume has reduced, with authorisations by kg and number of seed decreasing.

Sweetcorn – though this seems to show a drastic decrease, we discovered some misreporting from previous years, where feed maize varieties had been recorded under horticulture. We believe that this year's figure is an accurate reflection of use for 2018 within horticulture.

[3] Defra Land statistics https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/organic-farming-statistics-2017
[4] Soil Association Organic Market Report 2019

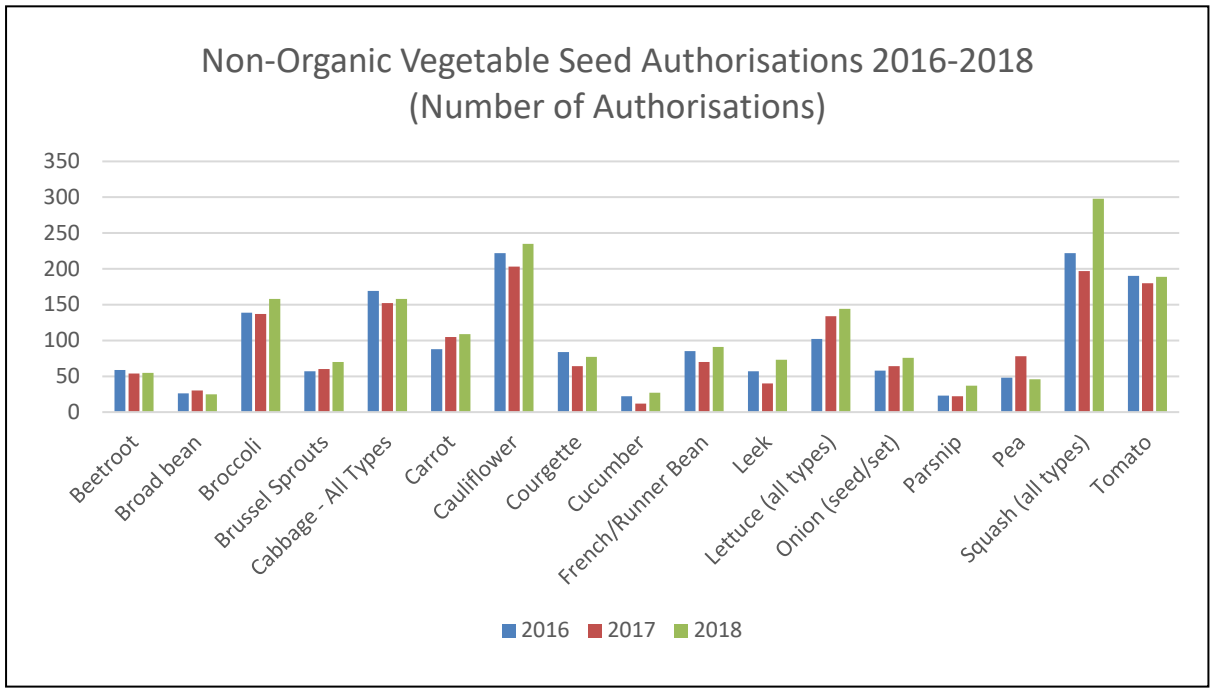
Onion – we have seen an increase in authorisations for onion seed of 19% (following a increase of 10% in the previous year).

Pea – there has been a decrease of 41% in authorisations for peas.

Table 4: Summary Data for the Top 20 Horticultural Crop Species in 2018 (by Number of Non-Organic Seed Authorisations) compared with the same crops in 2017)

2017				Crop species	2018			
Auths	kg	seeds	plants		Auths	kg	seeds	plants
197	1.051	448,597		Squash	298	10.105	1,026,727	
203	0.003	2,532,720		Cauliflow er	235	0.012	2,757,570	
180	0.071	99,650	48	Tomato	189	0.398	767,989	140,000
137	1.945	12,109,416		Broccoli	158	296.546	9,504,135	
109	76.498	5,157,965		Kale	138	54.918	1,549,300	
89	355,250.000	32,113,584		Sw eetcorn	81	237.340	2,393,019	
105	5.230	480,488,750		Carrot	109	3.166	594,104,350	
72	0.060	60,554		Chilli Pepper	93		27,373	
64	50.180	659,744		Courgette	77	50.043	1,028,648	
40	-	4,886,628		Leek	73	0.020	12,922,430	
88	1,687.033	100		Quinoa	72	753.460	-	
60	2.355	460,380		Brussels Sprouts	70	0.095	277,340	
45	0.862	1,365,868,300		Spinach	66	0.515	1,249,400,620	
62	0.085	5,045,450		Lettuce (Head)	64	0.097	27,169,189	
54	30.300	94,131,470		Beetroot	53	12.221	48,344,650	
27	0.910	181,885		Pak Choi	54	120.210	305,044	
46	4.280	260,600		Cabbage (Savoy)	51	0.041	269,700	
49	102.970	135,462		Asia Greens	50	220.684	875,495	
34	21.700	2,134,300		Chard	50	42.801	975,258	
69	4,099.265	91,855		Pea	46	7,963.675	1,207,230	

Graph 7: Comparison of Non-Organic Vegetable Seed Authorisations (Selected Crops) 2016-2018



Fruit

The total number of authorisations in the fruit sector decreased from 286 in 2017, to 238 in 2018 (a decrease of 17%). There is again significant variation from crop to crop; however, the small scale of the sector is such that one or two significant plantings of a particular species can have a large impact on the overall picture. For instance the number of authorisations for pears decreased by 62% (from 24 to 9) while the actual number of plants increased by 4,451% from 89 to more than 4,000.

The biggest increases were seen for pears (+4,451%), melons (+2,569%), gooseberries (+2,835%) and blackcurrants (+346%). Strawberries and raspberries saw significant drop in total numbers of plants. It is likely that last year's high raspberry volumes were due to a small number of big plantings.

We continue to have insufficient evidence to match the authorisations to overall hectares of each fruit, so we are as yet unable to tell whether an increase in area represents an overall improvement in any one crop.

Top fruit stock continues to be a problem, and there remain only two producers in the UK supplying relatively small quantities for commercial orchards – whilst also relying on amateur sales. Many of the larger commercial orchards will source stock (both organic and non-organic) from suppliers in other EU member states.

Graph 8: Comparison of the Non-Organic Fruit Authorisations Issued to UK Organic Farmers and Growers, 2013-2018

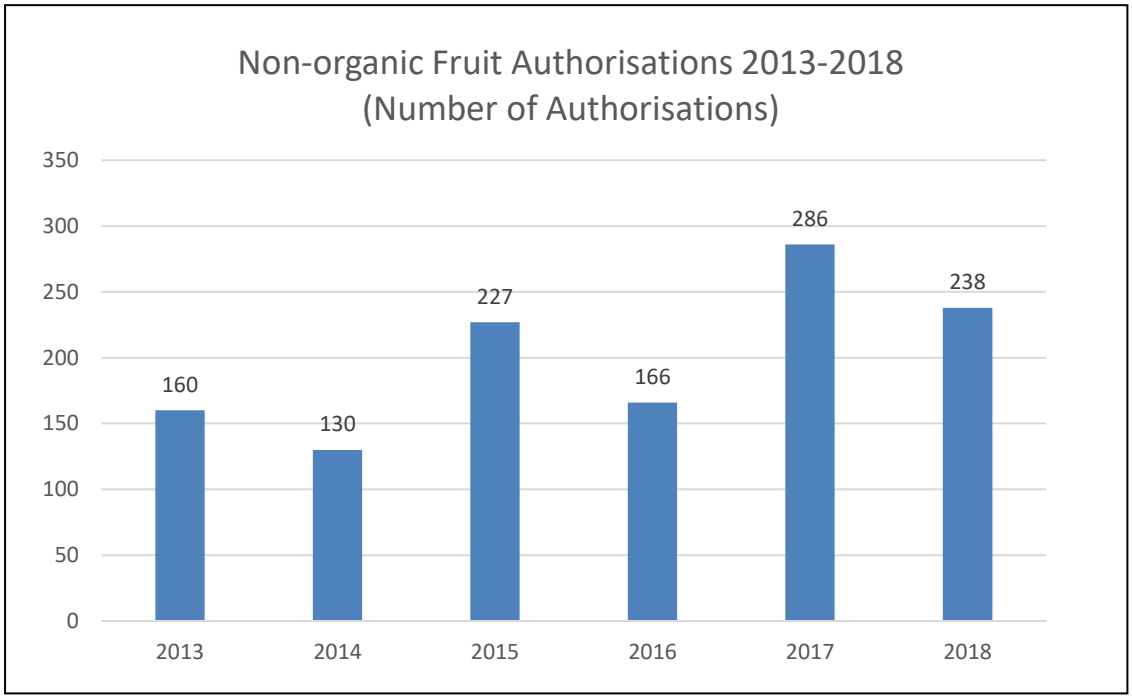


Table 5: Summary of Non-Organic Fruit Authorisations – Main Crops

Crop	2016		2017		2018		Change 2017-18	
	Auths	Quantity (plants)	Auths	Quantity (plants)	Auths	Quantity (plants)	Auths	Quantity
Apple	72	15,114	**137**	**1,603**	**62**	**318**	**-75**	**-1,285**
Apricots	6	30	**2**	**4**	-	-	-	-
Blackcurrant	3	8,100	**7**	**6,725**	**7**	**30,001**	**0**	**23,276**
Blueberry	-	-	**10**	**646**	**5**	**304**	**-5**	**-342**
Cherry	7	1,740	**15**	**2,296**	**13**	**2,400**	**-2**	**104**
Gooseberry	2	1,900	**9**	**511**	**3**	**15,000**	**-6**	**14,489**
Grape	5	335	**4**	**200**	**9**	**534**	**5**	**334**
Melon	6	2,059	**9**	**162**	**8**	**4,324**	**-1**	**4,162**
Pear	8	3,618	**24**	**89**	**9**	**4,051**	**-15**	**3,962**
Plum	4	2,203	**27**	**72**	**16**	**1,933**	**-11**	**1,861**
Raspberry	9	343	**26**	**503,461**	**14**	**690**	**-12**	**-502,771**
Red Currant	2	9,000	**2**	**4,850**	**3**	**10,020**	**1**	**5,170**
Strawberry	20	380,258	**16**	**118,580**	**54**	**29,360**	**38**	**-89,220**
White Currant	1	2,700	**1**	**300**	**1**	**5,000**	**0**	**4,700**

Grass Seed

The increases in authorisations, as shown in table 5 below, reflect changing variety demand not being met by supply. Also, Red and Meadow Fescues have seen close to 100% increases in volumes authorised. This must be linked to the very dry conditions experienced in 2018, leading farmers to look for more drought tolerant grasses in their mixes as well as the greater interest in herbal leys which frequently include these plants.

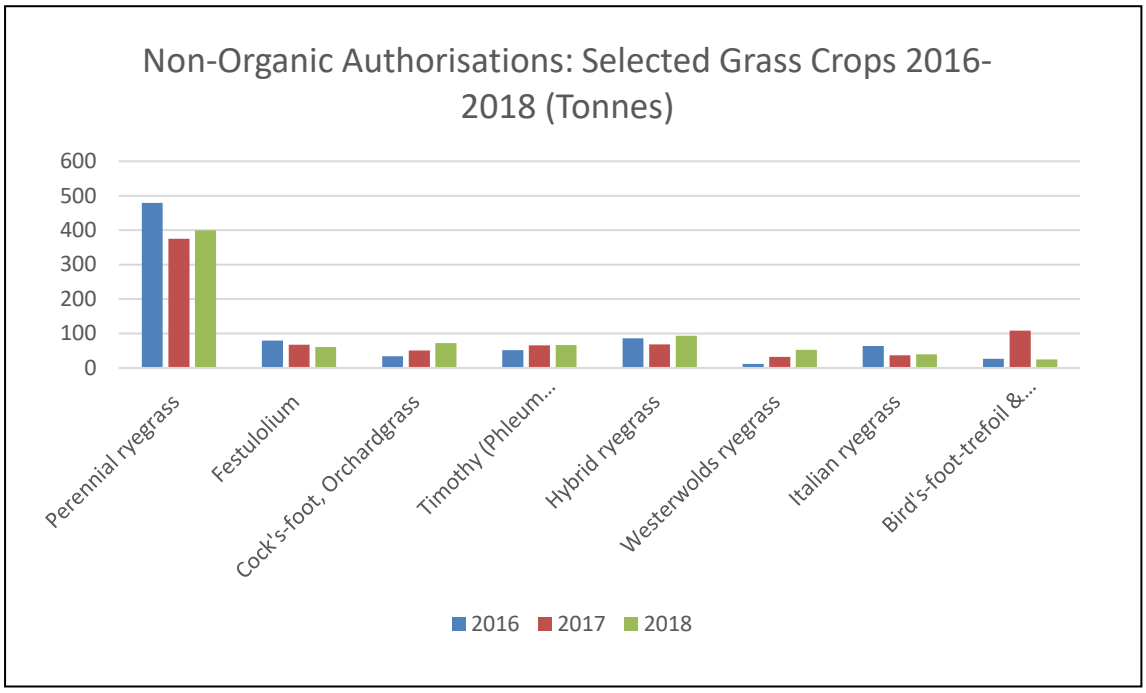
(Conversely, there have been sharp falls in both authorisations and quantities of trefoil and sainfoin, suggesting that organic supply has caught up with demand. Authorisations are down by nearly 67% for trefoil, and 45% for sainfoin).

Early indicators from seed marketeers suggest that the drought of 2018 is having an adverse impact on grass seed availability for 2019

Table 6: Summary Comparison (Major Crops) of Non-Organic Grass Seed Authorisations

Name of Crop Species	2016		2017		2018		Change 2016-17	
	Auths	Amount (kg)	Auths	Amount (kg)	Auths	Amount (kg)	Auths	Amount (kg)
Perennial ryegrass	1,174	47,885	1,064	37,537	**1,158**	**39,942**	94	2,406
Festulolium	89	7,913	91	6,774	**115**	**6,074**	24	-699
Cock's-foot, Orchardgrass	107	3,371	151	5,034	**204**	**7,206**	53	2,172
Timothy (*Phleum pratense*)	339	5,159	334	6,530	**356**	**6,664**	22	135
Hybrid ryegrass	209	8,615	189	6,822	**262**	**9,316**	73	2,495
Westerwolds ryegrass	29	1,143	41	3,174	**58**	**5,233**	17	2,059
Italian ryegrass	98	6,348	86	3,661	**85**	**3,929**	-1	268
Bird's-foot-trefoil & Black Medick	218	2,614	264	10,790	**89**	**2,440**	-175	-8,349
Meadow fescue	82	1,887	55	1,131	**81**	**2,291**	26	1,160
Red Fescue	41	543	53	859	**62**	**1,913**	9	1,054
Sainfoin	40	2,194	38	1,302	**21**	**679**	-17	-623
Tall Fescue	43	347	35	438	**43**	**644**	8	206
Timothy (*Phleum bertolonii*)	20	24	32	97	**26**	**93**	-6	-4

Graph 9: Comparison of Non-Organic Grass Seed Authorisations 2016-2018, Selected Crops, 2016-2018



Forage / Fodder Crops

Whilst levels of authorisations and volumes of red clover have stayed constant, there has been a dramatic fall in authorisations for alsike clover, matched in volume terms by a concomitant increase in white clover. The 2017 volume figure for alsike now appears anomalous, as it is now more consistent with other cover crop components such as crimson clover. The increase in white clover may be linked to increasing areas of land in organic conversion.

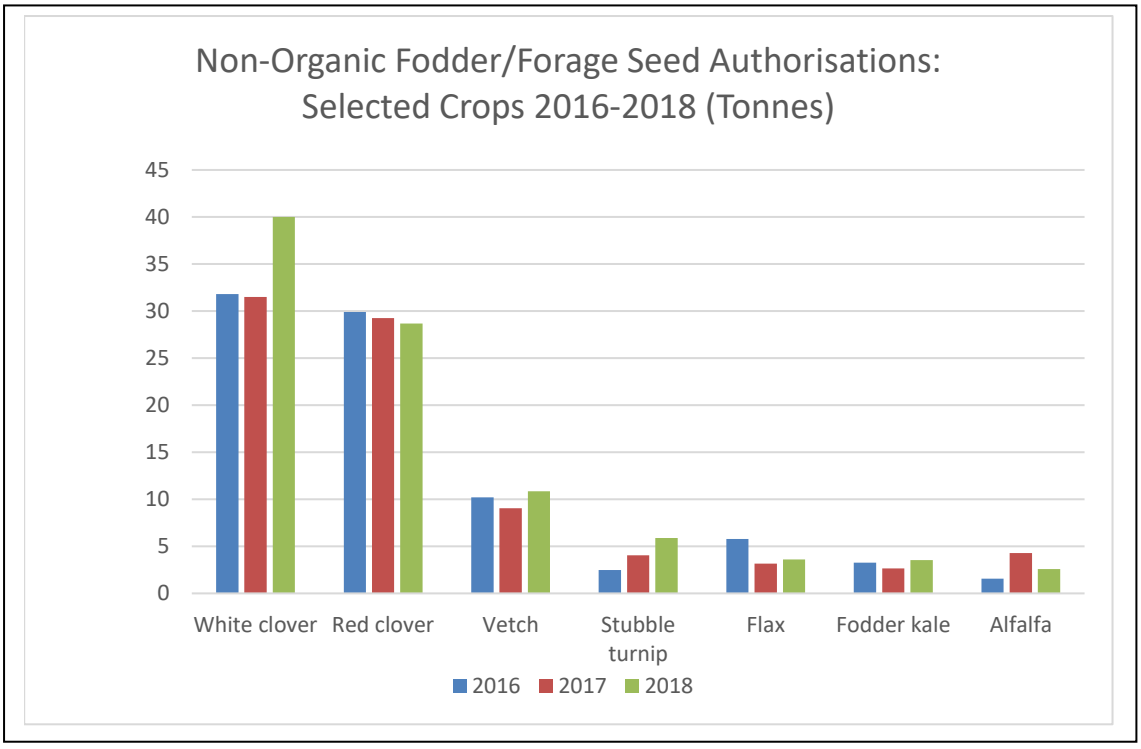
Cover crops are clearly increasing in popularity, with authorisations for vetches up by a third, and stubble turnips by 60%. Whilst authorisations for white mustard fell slightly, the volume increased by 600%.

The other increase was for forage beet, with a doubling of authorisations, but a thirty-fold increase in volume. This reflects an initiative by dairy farmers to source more feed from within the UK.

Table 7: Summary Comparison of Authorisations Issued for Non-Organic Forage/Fodder seed (major crops): 2016 – 2018

Name of Crop Species	2016		2017		2018		Change 2015-16	
	Auths	Amount (kg)	Auths	Amount (kg)	Auths	Amount (kg)	Auths	Amount (kg)
White Clover	2,719	31,822	2,647	31,513	**2,848**	**40,015**	201	8,502
Red Clover	931	29,924	833	29,257	**891**	**28,691**	62	-565
Vetch	57	10,212	63	9,043	**84**	**10,838**	21	1,795
Stubble turnip	100	2,489	115	4,055	**186**	**5,881**	71	1,826
Flax (Linseed)	58	5,768	54	3,177	**49**	**3,594**	-5	417
Fodder Kale	145	3,274	166	2,635	**198**	**3,546**	32	911
Alfalfa	31	1,573	40	4,275	**39**	**2,578**	-1	-1,697
White mustard	24	323	37	385	**31**	**2,312**	-6	1,927
Alsike clover	121	1,282	141	11,289	**155**	**1,985**	14	-9,304
Forage Beet	20	62	20	51	**45**	**1,372**	25	1,321
Crimson Clover	49	774	45	771	**55**	**1,376**	10	605
Persian Clover	24	151	19	238	**30**	**235**	11	-2
Sweet Clover	20	154	15	554	**15**	**153**	0	-401

Graph 10: Comparison of Non-Organic Forage/Fodder Seed Used 2016-2018



Organic Seed Working Groups

The seed working group meetings have been held for a number of years. Chaired by the Soil Association, they bring together seed suppliers, control bodies, organic farmers, and representatives from Defra to discuss past authorisations - as well as assessing the current volume and diversity of organic seed available to farmers and growers.

A grass / forage seed working group (GSWG) meeting was held in July 2018. Topics discussed included details of the previous year's non-organic seed authorisations, the state of the organic market (including land area statistics), trade summary / future availability, a review of the 70% inclusion rate and the possible consequences of the atypically hard weather experienced at the start of growing season.

An arable seed working group (ASWG) meeting held in March 2018. Rather than a physical meeting this was held via phone conferencing, supplemented by email responses from members of the group replying to items in the agenda. Such items were the availability of organic seed for Spring/Summer 2018 (which was quite low, some suppliers having sold out) and the proposal, originating from NFU Scotland to introduce black grass testing into organic seed standards (this would be detrimental to organic production).

Face to face meetings of the horticulture and potato seed working groups were not held during 2018. Soil Association continues to work with the sector and organic seed producers to promote their products to organic growers, and to highlight the risk to consumer trust of continued high levels of non-organic seed use.

Working groups have agreed to ensure that relevant information is gathered and disseminated as quickly as possible, with regular meetings/group discussions to help ensure that there is the best possible supply of suitable organic seeds to farmers and growers.

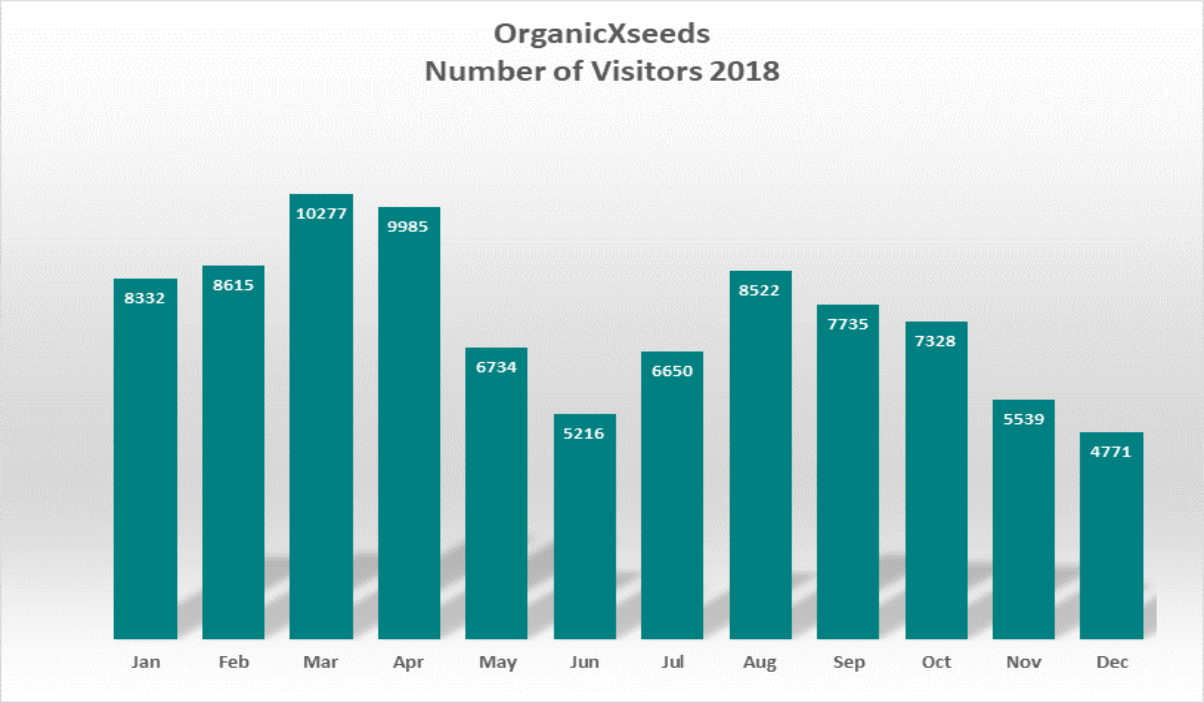
The UK Database: www.organicxseeds.co.uk

This database is a requirement of EU Regulation (EC) No. 1452/2003 which regulates the use of seeds and seed potatoes in organic farming.

There are currently 31 seed companies registered in the database who are able to supply organic seed and/or organic seed potatoes to organic farmers and growers in the UK. Seed suppliers can register species of organic seed and/or organic seed potatoes by variety via a login and password. They are regulated by a signed contract with the Soil Association requiring them to update their seed listings in accordance with current availability.

Organic producers are legally obliged to use organic seed that is registered in the database. UK control bodies are legally obliged to check the database for organic seed availability before issuing authorisations to use non-organic seed.

Statistics provided by FiBL relating to the Organic X Seeds website (which operates across several EU member states) can be viewed below:



Percentage visitors OrganicXseeds in different countries	
Germany	67.1%
Belgium	7.3%
United Kingdom	6.0%
Switzerland	4.7%
Sweden	3.6%
Ireland	1.6%
Luxembourg	0.3%
Others	9.5%

Online availability of the database during 2018: 99.5%

Explanation of Authorisation Data

In accordance with Article 12 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1452/2003 the report shall contain, for each species concerned by an authorisation according to Article 5(1), the following information:

- The scientific name of the species and the variety denomination
- The English or common name of the species and the variety denomination
- The justification for the authorisation indicated by a reference to Article 5(1)
- The total number of authorisations
- The total quantity of seed or seed potatoes involved
- The chemical treatment for phytosanitary purposes as referred to in Article 3(a)

Authorisation according to Article 5(1) for seed (agricultural crop)

Column 1
Scientific name of the species

Column 2
English or common name of the species

Column 3
Variety name

Column 4
Justification / Reason for authorisation

The justification for the authorisation is indicated by a reference to Article 5(1) (a), (b), (c) or (d) (**NB:** In the UK it has been agreed by Defra to modify Article 5(1) and use the following justifications).

(a) If no variety of the species, which the user wants to obtain is registered in the database provided for in article 6;

(b) If no supplier is able to deliver the seed or seed potatoes before sowing or planting in situations where the user has ordered the seed or seed potatoes in reasonable time;

(c) If the variety which the user wants to obtain is not registered in the database, and the user is able to demonstrate that none of the registered alternatives of the same species are appropriate and that the authorisation therefore is significant for his production;

(d1) It is justified for use in research;

(d2) To test in small-scale field trials;

(d3) For variety conservation purposes, agreed by the competent authority of the member state;

(e) The seed is part of a grass or forage mix containing at least 70% organic seeds.

Column 5
The chemical treatment for phytosanitary purposes
There are currently no chemical treatments allowed for phytosanitary purposes in the UK.
[This column is informally used for seed-for-seed production]

Column 6
The total number of authorisations for each variety

Column 7
The total number of authorisations for each species

Column 8
The total quantity of seed, plants or seed potatoes (by variety)

For each variety it is stated, how many units of seed or vegetative propagating material have been authorised. Where two or more authorisations have been granted, the amounts have been added.

Column 9
The total quantity of seed or seed potatoes (by species)

Seed Authorisation Data

The accompanying document - "UK Non-Organic Seed Authorisation Report 2018 Data" - summarises the authorisations granted in 2018 by all of the UK organic control bodies.

There are some anomalies in the way that the data is collected by the control bodies. For example, the same variety of a particular crop may have some entries recorded by the number of seeds or plants and others by the weight of the seed. Where this has occurred the entries have been added to give a total by each unit of measurement. Although the control bodies are aware of this they often receive the request for authorisations in various units from the producer, who in turn records the information as provided by the seed company.

Acknowledgements

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Data compiled by Martin Parkinson. Seed working groups chaired by Liz Bowles and Ben Raskin.