



Invitation Swede

Crop

Stock Type

Dairy, Sheep, Beef, Deer

Invitation is a late maturing, yellow-fleshed swede, with very high bulb and leaf yield. It gives valuable winter feed with excellent animal health for sheep, cattle and deer.

High yield & disease tolerance

Invitation has excellent total DM yields with good dry rot tolerance and resistance to club root and powdery mildew. *Invitation* is not recommended as a second crop.

Total DM yield, dry rot tolerance and club root infection level.

Cultivar	Total DM yield*		Dry rot tolerance**				Club root***	
	(Trial mean =100)		% of bulbs not infected		% bulbs badly infected		%of bulbs not infected	
<i>Invitation</i>	112	a	57	a	5	a	97	a
Aparima Gold	103	b	36	ab	11	a	100	b
<i>Major Plus</i>	96	c	10	bc	56	b	18	bc
<i>Dominion</i>	92	c	6	c	71	b	23	b
<i>Domain</i>	74	d	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
<i>Trial mean</i>	12.6 t DM/ha		21%		41%		60%	

*From 8 Southland trials, from 2006/07 to 2011/13. **From a Southland trial in 2008/09 under moderate to high dry rot pressure in a 2nd crop paddock. *** From a Southland trial in 2010/11 under moderate to high club root pressure in a 2nd crop paddock. NT = Not tested. Statistical significance lettering given for 5% LSD level, cultivars with same letter are not significantly different.◇= Provisional results. Domain was in 2 of the 8 trials.

Good leaf yield

Invitation produces high leaf yields showing a significantly higher leaf percentage than other cultivars in trials. This lifts the overall protein level of the crop and is helpful when introducing swedes into an animal’s diet, particularly for younger stock.

Bulb & leaf keeping

Invitation has shown high bulb keeping ability and leaf retention in trials, helping maintain its feed quality and quantity through to the end of winter.

Late flowering

Invitation is very late flowering, so the crop stays vegetative longer into spring than other cultivars. This minimises the risk of animal health problems associated with ‘bolting’ swede crops, as seen in spring 2014 in Southland. No issues were reported on *Invitation* swedes.

Swede flowering scores*

Cultivar	Lack of flowering	
<i>Invitation</i>	7.2	a
<i>Major Plus</i>	6.7	ab
<i>Domain</i>	6.5	ab
<i>Dominion</i>	4.8	c
<i>HT Swede</i>	3.4	d
<i>Aparima Gold</i>	3.1	d
Trial mean	6.1	

*Results from 2 trials in Southland sown 2008 and 2012. Statistical significance lettering given for 5% LSD level, cultivars with the same letter are not significantly different. Scored on a 1 - 9 basis. Where 1 = full flowering swede crop, 4 = stem elongation, green seed head appeared, 7, small degree of elongaton, 9 = no sign of stem elongation.

Using *Invitation*

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sow						Graze			
Maturity date: 170-250 days									
Typical yield:		10-18 t DM/ha (depending on season and situation)							
ME:		12-14 MJ/kg DM							
Sowing rate:		Ridged 0.5-0.8 kg/ha							
		Drilled 0.8-1.5 kg/ha							



Invitation produces a higher proportion of leaf than other varieties, for more protein.

Invitation swede is marketed by Barenbrug