

BSPB Trait and Trader Protection Scheme

Sharing the value of BYDV tolerance



Launched in 2021, the scheme protects the value of a trait outside of the standard royalty collection.

Agriculture is rapidly shifting toward a greener, more sustainable model, increasing reliance on crop genetics as pesticide use declines. Developing new traits is costly and time-intensive, requiring **long-term investment** from the plant breeding industry. The TPS offers strong **protection** for innovative traits and helps secure future funding to support UK farmers and growers. BSPB will ensure the process is simple, transparent, and beneficial for all involved.

How does the scheme work?

The Trait Fee, in the same way as a seed royalty, is set by the **breeder** of the variety and under a licence agreement with the breeder will be **collected by the BSPB**. The royalty and trait fee will be included in the certified seed price.

What if I farm save my seed?

The Trait Fee however remains the same value on both certified seed and farm saved seed. For **certified seed** the Trait Fee will be paid at the point of seed purchase (per tonne) and for **farm saved seed** the Trait Fee will be collected by the BSPB (per hectare).

How does the process work?

- When discussing a new variety with your seed supplier they will notify you that the variety is under the Trait Protection Scheme (TPS).
- This means that a Trait Fee is due both on the certified seed and on any seed that you decide to farm save for the following season.
- Your seed supplier will be able to confirm with you what the cost of the Trait Fee is, which will be the same amount on the certified and farm saved seed.
- The Trait Fee will be paid at the point of purchase per tonne on certified seed.
- The Trait Fee will be collected by the BSPB per hectare at drilling of FSS.
- Under the agreement between your seed supplier and the BSPB the seed supplier will share your details and the amount you have purchased; this is only for the sole purpose of enabling BSPB to collect the Trait Fee on farm saved seed.
- BSPB will contact you to ensure you are fully aware of what the TPS involves.
- BSPB will contact you to collect the Trait Fee on farm saved seed due on any area of that variety you have

What is the value of BYDV tolerance worth?

Control of BYDV through genetics is becoming more appealing, following the loss of seed treatment options for autumn aphid control. BYDV tolerance refers to a plant's ability to survive and maintain a reasonable level of growth and yield despite being infected with the virus. Unlike resistance, which prevents infection, tolerance allows the plant to develop the virus **without** severely impacting its overall performance.

Tolerant varieties can still show **some** symptoms of BYDV, like leaf yellowing, but these symptoms are typically milder and don't significantly affect yield. This can be particularly helpful in high-pressure situations where BYDV is prevalent.

Frequently Asked Questions...

How do I know if the variety I am buying is on the TPS?

Your seed supplier will make it clear to you at the point of sale but it will also be well documented so you are aware. BSPB will contact you once you have purchased a variety under the TPS.

How can I find out information regarding the trait?

This will be available from the breeder and/or your seed supplier.

Will there be any difference in the performance of the trait with FSS?

As with all seed the further it is multiplied from the source then the more chance of out pollination and contamination there is. If the FSS is from a properly managed process for seed purity, then there should be relatively low risk for one year, but we would advise that to be the maximum.