FBA
FABA BEAN BREEDING AUSTRALIA

FBA Barmah$^{\phi}$
Faba Bean

Broadly adapted IMI-tolerant variety

MAIN ADVANTAGES

FBA Barmah$^{\phi}$ is an IMI-tolerant faba bean for southern Australia bringing a compliment of improvements over PBA Bendoc$^{\phi}$. Incorporating the same imidazolinone tolerance as PBA Bendoc$^{\phi}$, FBA Barmah$^{\phi}$ provides growers with flexible in-crop broadleaf weed control options and enables the variety to be grown where Group 2 herbicide residues persist. FBA Barmah$^{\phi}$ is an early/mid-flowering and early/mid-maturing variety combining high yield potential with strong agronomic performance across southern Australia.

SEED PROTECTION & ROYALTIES

FBA Barmah$^{\phi}$ is protected by Plant Breeder's Rights (PBR) legislation. Growers may only retain seed for their own use.

An End Point Royalty (EPR) of $4.29 per tonne (GST inclusive), which includes a breeder royalty, applies upon delivery of this variety.

Seed is available from the commercial partner Seednet.

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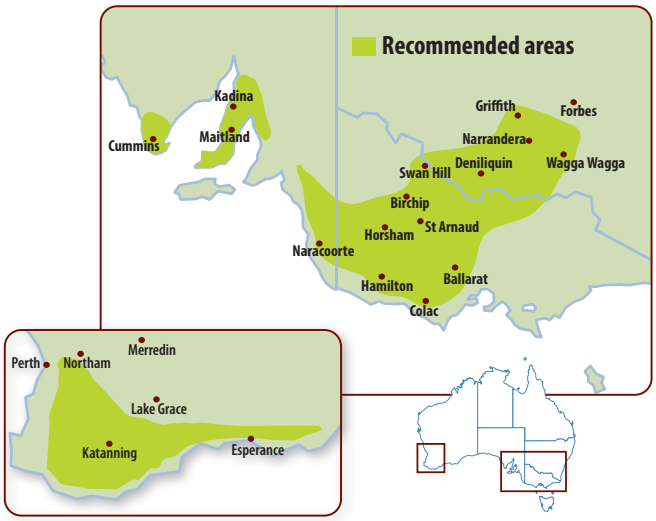
KEY FEATURES

- **Tolerant to some imidazolinone (Group 2) herbicides***
  *Only apply products with a registered label or current permit. All directions for use must be adhered to.
- **Highest-yielding IMI-tolerant faba bean variety across southern Australia, with impressive yield stability across contrasting environments.**
- **Excellent standability – MR to lodging and R to necking.**
- **A step up in disease resistance for an IMI-tolerant faba bean, rated MR (P) to Ascochyta blight and MS to chocolate spot.**
- **Medium seed size, larger than PBA Bendoc$^{\phi}$ and suited to the major food export markets.**

AREA OF ADAPTATION



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YIELD & ADAPTATION

FBA Barmah$^{\Phi}$ is an early/mid-flowering, IMI-tolerant faba bean variety for southern Australia. It is widely adapted, performing strongly under evaluation in South Australia, Victoria, southern New South Wales and the Esperance Port Zone of Western Australia.

The early/mid-flowering time enables good performance in low rainfall, short season environments, while the improved standability, disease resistance and larger seed size support reliable production in medium- and higher-rainfall environments.

Together, these traits provide a clear improvement over PBA Bendoc$^{\Phi}$ across a wide range of southern growing conditions. Please see https://app.nvt.grdc.com.au for location specific yield data.

Resistance of FBA Barmah$^{\Phi}$ to both Ascochyta blight (MR (P)) and chocolate spot (MS) are improvements over PBA Bendoc$^{\Phi}$, enhancing reliability in disease-conducive environments.

FBA Barmah$^{\Phi}$ is not recommended for growing in northern NSW or southern QLD as it is lower yielding than varieties released for the northern region, and the level of rust resistance is not adequate for the high disease risk in the region.

Table 1. Long-term (2021–25) predicted yield (% of trial mean) of FBA Barmah$^{\Phi}$ and other faba bean varieties in National Variety Trials (NVT) across southern Australia (Sth NSW, VIC, SA & WA).

		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	Mean yield	3.93 t/ha	4.07 t/ha	3.10 t/ha	2.53 t/ha	2.93 t/ha
Variety	Trials	14	13	14	14	18
FBA Barmah$^{\Phi}$	**73**	**103**	**103**	**102**	**100**	**102**
FBA Coorong$^{\Phi}$	73	103	105	103	99	105
PBA Amberley$^{\Phi}$	72	100	101	97	101	97
PBA Bendoc$^{\Phi}$	73	97	89	99	97	100
PBA Marne$^{\Phi}$	73	102	100	105	103	94
PBA Samira$^{\Phi}$	73	98	103	97	100	102

Source: https://app.nvt.grdc.com.au

NVT

DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Ascochyta blight

- Rated MR (P), similar to PBA Amberley$^{\Phi}$ and greater than PBA Samira$^{\Phi}$ and PBA Bendoc$^{\Phi}$.
- Crops should be monitored and managed if significant disease occurs. Foliar fungicides that target Ascochyta blight should be applied at 6–8 weeks post sowing in high risk situations.
- Ascochyta blight protection during podding should be applied if significant disease occurs on foliage earlier in the season.

Chocolate spot

- Rated MS, similar to PBA Samira$^{\Phi}$ and more resistant than PBA Bendoc$^{\Phi}$.
- Strategic fungicide applications are recommended in high-risk situations. Disease will be minimised by applications prior to canopy closure, during flowering and at pod fill.

Cercospora leaf spot

- FBA Barmah$^{\Phi}$ has not been tested for Cercospora leaf spot. Manage like all other Australian faba bean varieties, which are rated S.
- The risk of Cercospora leaf spot is greatest in paddocks with a long history of faba/broad bean production and when bean crops are grown in tight rotations.
- A foliar fungicide that targets Cercospora leaf spot is recommended to be applied at 5–8 weeks post-sowing.

Rust

- Rated S, similar to PBA Samira$^{\Phi}$ and greater than PBA Amberley$^{\Phi}$ and PBA Bendoc$^{\Phi}$.
- A foliar fungicide that targets rust is required in high-risk situations.

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AGRONOMY

Plant characteristics

- Early/mid-flowering and -maturity, similar to PBA Marne^{Φ}.
- Medium-height plant, generally similar to most other varieties.
- Excellent resistance to lodging (MR) and necking (R), similar to PBA Amberley^{Φ} and greater than PBA Bendoc^{Φ}. Some lodging can occur in very high-biomass conditions.

Sowing

- Seed crops of FBA Barmah^{Φ} should be isolated from other faba bean varieties by at least 200 m to prevent cross-pollination.
- Paddock selection and basic requirements for production are similar to other faba bean varieties.
- Faba beans generally benefit from early sowing, particularly in lower-rainfall or short-season environments. Delaying sowing to late May or early June can significantly reduce yield.
- Very early sowing in high biomass environments can cause excessive canopy growth and increase the risk of foliar fungal disease.
- Seed of FBA Barmah^{Φ} is similar in size to PBA Amberley^{Φ} and PBA Samira^{Φ}. Seeding equipment must be able to handle the seed to reduce the risk of blockages.
- Inoculation with the commercial faba bean Group F rhizobium is essential for proper nodulation.

Herbicide tolerance

FBA Barmah^{Φ} carries the same herbicide-tolerance gene as PBA Bendoc^{Φ}, providing tolerance to some imidazolinone herbicides when applied post-crop emergence up to the 6-node growth stage.

- Growers must adhere to all product label and current permit directions for use, including rates, timing of application and plant-back periods.
- FBA Barmah^{Φ} has reduced sensitivity to some sulfonylurea herbicide residues from previous crop applications.
- FBA Barmah^{Φ} has been tested in breeding yield trials and has shown no specific adverse reactions to any registered products used.
- A small proportion of IMI-sensitive off-types occur in FBA Barmah. Spraying with a registered IMI herbicide in most seasons will prevent this proportion from increasing.

Table 2. Agronomic and disease resistance ratings of faba bean varieties in southern Australia

Variety	Plant height	Flower time	Maturity	Lodging resistance	Necking resistance	Ascochyta blight	Chocolate spot	Cerco-spora	Rust	P. thornei
	Source: FBA trials program 2016-2025					Source: NVT disease ratings 2025				
FBA Barmah^{Φ}	**Medium**	**Early/ Mid**	**Early/ Mid**	**MR**	**R**	**MR (P)**	**MS**	**-**	**S**	**MRMS**
FBA Coorong^{Φ}	Medium	Early/Mid	Mid	RMR	MS	MRMS (P)	MRMS	-	VS	MRMS
PBA Amberley^{Φ}	Medium	Mid	Mid	MR	R	MR	MRMS	S	VS	MRMS
PBA Bendoc^{Φ}	Medium	Mid	Early/Mid	MS	MS	MRMS (P)	S	S	VS	MRMS
PBA Marne^{Φ}	Med/ Short	Early/Mid	Early/Mid	MR	MR	MS	MS	S	MRMS	MS[1]
PBA Samira^{Φ}	Medium	Mid	Early/Mid	MR	MS	MRMS (P)	MS	S	S	MRMS[1]

– = not tested, **R** = resistant, **RMR** = resistant-moderately resistant, **MR** = moderately resistant, **MRMS** = moderately resistant-moderately susceptible, **MS** = moderately susceptible, **S** = susceptible, **VS** = very susceptible, **(P)** = provisional ratings and subject to change when additional data becomes available through the NVT.
[1] Last tested in 2024
NVT disease ratings source: https://nvt.grdc.com.au/nvt-disease-ratings

NVT

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SEED QUALITY

FBA Barmah^{Φ} produces medium-sized seeds, comparable to PBA Amberley^{Φ} and PBA Samira^{Φ}. The seed size varies between locations and seasons, and larger seed is produced under favourable conditions.

The overall colour of seed is similar to other major faba bean varieties and seed of FBA Barmah^{Φ} have a black hilum.

Table 3. Seed weight (g/100 seeds) of FBA Barmah^{Φ} and other faba bean varieties in NVT across southern Australia (Sth NSW, VIC, SA & WA) from 2021 to 2025.

Variety	Median	Range[1]
FBA Barmah^{Φ}	**72**	**65–78**
FBA Coorong^{Φ}	81	73–89
PBA Amberley^{Φ}	71	66–75
PBA Bendoc^{Φ}	62	57–68
PBA Marne^{Φ}	68	61–73
PBA Samira^{Φ}	74	67–79

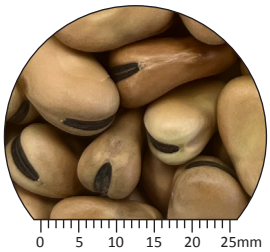
[1]Interquartile range

Source: https://app.nvt.grdc.com.au

NVT

MARKETING

Seed of FBA Barmah^{Φ} should be suitable for co-mingling with similar medium- and medium-large-seeded varieties for export to the major food markets.



FBA Barmah^{Φ}

PBA Bendoc^{Φ}

BREEDING

FBA Barmah^{Φ}, evaluated as AF15283, was developed by the FBA faba bean breeding program (led by Adelaide University). It is the result of a cross between AF10003 and a single plant selected from an early-generation bulk of a cross between AF07125 and a herbicide-tolerant selection (IMI-3-21). Tolerance to imidazolinone herbicides was developed through conventional mutation-breeding techniques applied to Nura^{Φ} in a project led by SARDI. FBA Barmah^{Φ} was selected for response to IMI tolerance, Ascochyta blight, chocolate spot, yield, broad adaptation, standing ability and seed quality.

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FBA is an unincorporated joint venture between the GRDC, Adelaide University, University of Sydney, SARDI and NSW DPIRD.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Seednet's mission is:

"To deliver high performance seed based genetics to Australian grain growers and end user customers via superior product and service delivery channels".

Seednet is proud to partner with Faba bean Breeding Australia and invest in the improvement of Australian faba bean varieties.

DISEASE MANAGEMENT ENQUIRIES

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