FBA
FABA BEAN BREEDING AUSTRALIA

FBA Coorong$^{\phi}$
Faba Bean

Broadly adapted Southern variety

KEY FEATURES

- Highest-yielding variety available for the southern region.
- Outstanding yield stability, consistently outperforming current varieties across contrasting environments.
- Excellent lodging resistance.
- Robust disease resistance, rated MRMS (P) to Ascochyta blight and MRMS to chocolate spot.
- Medium–large seed size, comparable to PBA Zahra$^{\phi}$ and suited to the major food export markets.

MAIN ADVANTAGES

FBA Coorong$^{\phi}$ is an early/mid-flowering, mid-maturing conventional faba bean combining top end yield potential with exceptional yield stability across southern Australia. Its earlier flowering, strong disease-resistance package and ability to respond in high yielding environments make it a reliable, broadly adapted performer from low to high rainfall zones.

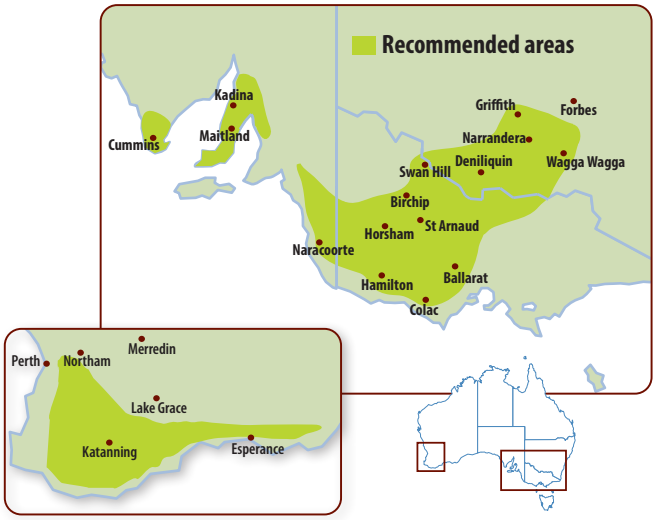
SEED PROTECTION & ROYALTIES

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

An End Point Royalty (EPR) of $4.125 per tonne (GST inclusive), which includes a breeder royalty, applies upon delivery of this variety.

Seed is available from the commercial partner Seednet.

AREA OF ADAPTATION



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FBA Coorong(Φ)
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YIELD & ADAPTATION

FBA Coorong(Φ) is an early/mid-flowering faba bean variety for southern Australia. It is widely adapted, out-yielding all other varieties in most districts and seasons it has been evaluated in throughout South Australia, Victoria and southern New South Wales. It has also performed well in the Esperance Port Zone in Western Australia.

The early/mid-flowering time enables performance in low-rainfall, short-season environments, making it a suitable replacement for PBA Marne(Φ) and PBA Samira(Φ), while the mid maturity and larger seed size allow it to take advantage of higher-rainfall and longer-season environments, making it an alternative to PBA Amberley(Φ).

Please see https://app.nvt.grdc.com.au for location-specific yield data.

Performance in higher-rainfall districts is supported by a robust disease-resistance package. FBA Coorong(Φ) is MRMS (P) to Ascochyta blight, similar to PBA Samira(Φ), and MRMS to chocolate spot, similar to PBA Amberley(Φ).

FBA Coorong(Φ) 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 Coorong(Φ) 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 Coorong(Φ)	**73**	**103**	**105**	**103**	**99**	**105**
FBA Barmah(Φ)	73	103	103	102	100	102
PBA Amberley(Φ)	72	100	101	97	101	97
PBA Bendoc(Φ)	73	97	89	99	97	100
PBA Marne(Φ)	73	102	100	105	103	94
PBA Zahra(Φ)	72	99	104	98	103	97
PBA Samira(Φ)	73	98	103	97	100	102

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

NVT

DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Ascochyta blight

- Rated MRMS (P), similar to PBA Samira(Φ) and PBA Bendoc(Φ).
- 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 MRMS, similar to PBA Amberley(Φ) and more resistant than other existing varieties.
- 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 Coorong(Φ) is rated as Susceptible (S) to Cercospora leaf spot, similar to all other Australian faba bean varieties.
- 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 VS, similar to PBA Amberley(Φ) and PBA Bendoc(Φ).
- A foliar fungicide that targets rust is required in high-risk situations.

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AGRONOMY

Plant characteristics

- Unique combination of early/mid-flowering time and mid maturity.
- Medium-height plant, generally similar to most other varieties.
- Lodging resistance better than any other faba bean variety, but can experience some lodging in very high-biomass conditions.
- MS to necking, similar to PBA Samira^{Φ} and PBA Bendoc^{Φ}.

Sowing

- Seed crops of FBA Coorong^{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 bean generally benefits 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 Coorong^{Φ} is similar in size to PBA Zahra^{Φ}, and seeding equipment must be able to handle the larger seed to reduce the risk of blockages.
- Inoculation with the commercial faba bean Group F rhizobium is essential for proper nodulation.

Herbicide tolerance

FBA Coorong^{Φ} is a conventional variety. In breeding yield trials it has shown no specific adverse reactions to any registered products used.

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 Coorong^{Φ}	**Medium**	**Early/ Mid**	**Mid**	**RMR**	**MS**	**MRMS (P)**	**MRMS**	**S**	**VS**	**MRMS**
FBA Barmah^{Φ}	Medium	Early/Mid	Early/Mid	MR	R	MR (P)	MS	-	S	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 Zahra^{Φ}	Med/Tall	Mid	Mid	MS	S	MRMS	MS	S	S	MRMS[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

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SEED QUALITY

FBA Coorong$^{\Phi}$ produces medium-large seeds, comparable to PBA Zahra$^{\Phi}$, and larger than other Australian faba bean varieties. Seed size varies between locations and seasons, and larger seed is produced under more favourable conditions with seed weight of FBA Coorong$^{\Phi}$ often exceeding 90 g/100 seeds in long-season, high-rainfall environments.

The larger size makes FBA Coorong$^{\Phi}$ highly suited to the major food export markets.

The overall colour of seeds is similar to other major faba bean varieties and seeds of FBA Coorong$^{\Phi}$ have a black hilum.

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

Variety	Median	Range[1]
FBA Coorong$^{\Phi}$	**81**	**73–89**
FBA Barmah$^{\Phi}$	72	65–78
PBA Amberley$^{\Phi}$	71	66–75
PBA Bendoc$^{\Phi}$	62	57–68
PBA Marne$^{\Phi}$	68	61–73
PBA Zahra$^{\Phi}$	76	67–82
PBA Samira$^{\Phi}$	74	67–79

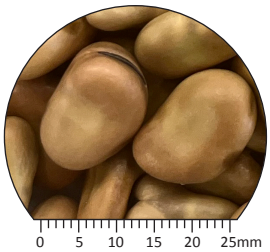
[1]Interquartile range

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

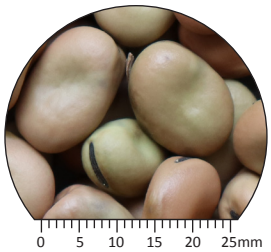
NVT

MARKETING

Seed of FBA Coorong$^{\Phi}$ should be suitable for co-mingling with medium- and medium-large seeded varieties for export to the major food markets.



FBA Coorong$^{\Phi}$



PBA Zahra$^{\Phi}$

BREEDING

FBA Coorong$^{\Phi}$, evaluated as AF14092, was developed by the FBA faba bean breeding program (led by Adelaide University). It is the result of a cross between AF05069-1 (a line closely related to PBA Samira$^{\Phi}$) and AF08068. It was selected for response to 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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