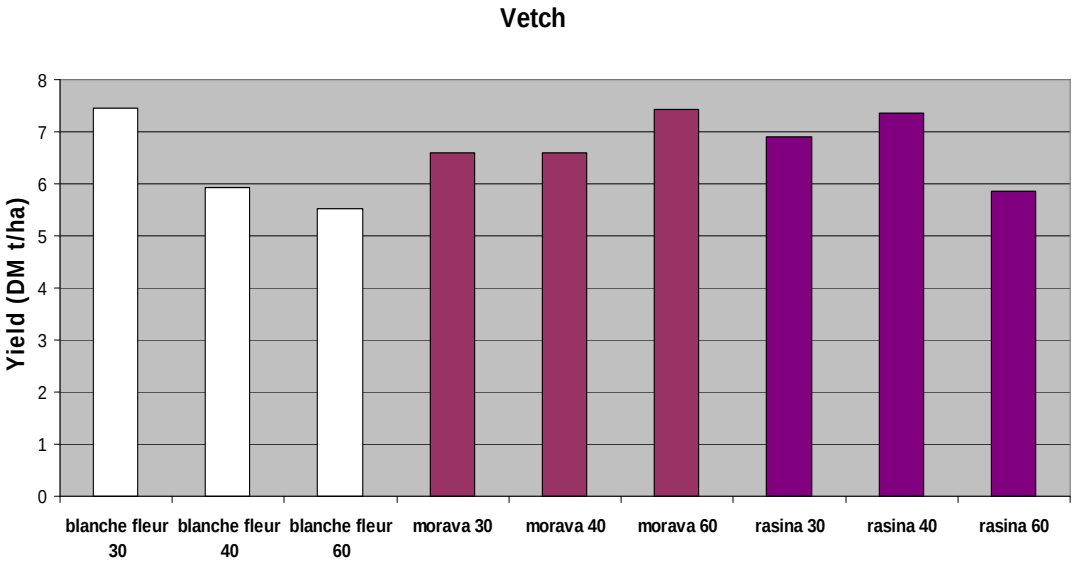
Irrigated Legumes for Fodder

The focus of the trial was the dry matter produced by peas and vetch under flood irrigation with variable sowing rates. The pea varieties sown were Kaspa, Morgan and Sturt. The vetch varieties were Morava, Blanche Fleur and Rasina.

All species were sown on April 20th into pre-irrigated ground.

The control sowing rate was 40 kg/ha for vetch and 40 plants/m^2 for peas (nominally 110 kg/ha). Sowing rates were then varies to produce 75% and 150% of the control. Dry matter assessments were taken on October 4th for the peas and October 11th for the vetch.

Vetch



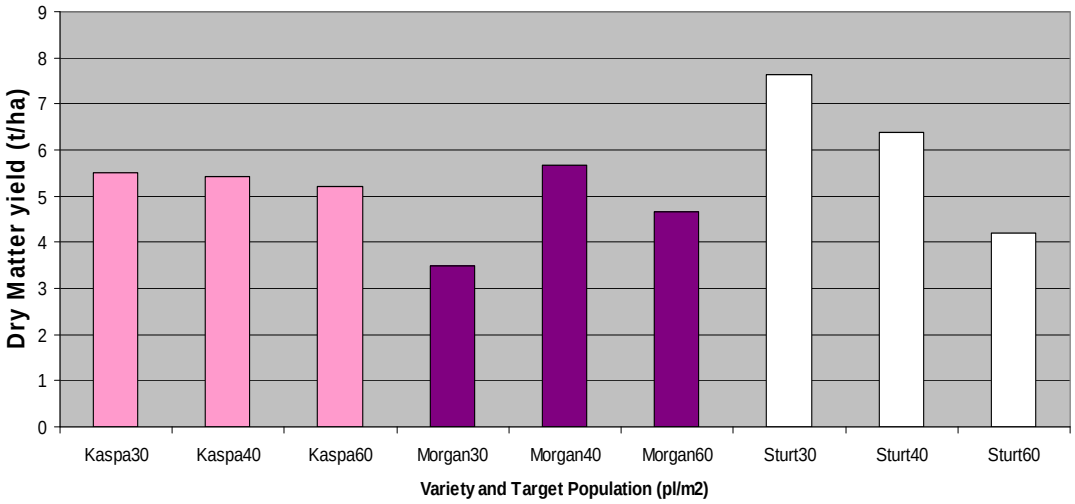
Trial Ave:	6.21 t/ha
lsd=	0.883t
cv%=	8.2

In general, the lower sowing rate, 30 kg/ha, either yielded as well or better than the higher rates for all varieties. On average, all varieties produced similar dry matter totals.

Peas

However the peas had a mixed response, complicated by the high level of variability in the trial making conclusions harder to draw.

Kaspa sown at the low rate had similar dry matter yields across the 3 sowing rates (85, 115 and 170 kg/ha targeting 30, 40 and 60 plants/m^2), while there were differences between the low rate in Morgan and the control (80 kg/ha vs. 105 kg/ha). Sturt produced the most dry matter, and at the lower rate (80 kg/ha).



Trial Ave:	5.4 t/ha
lsd=	1.72t
cv%=	18.3