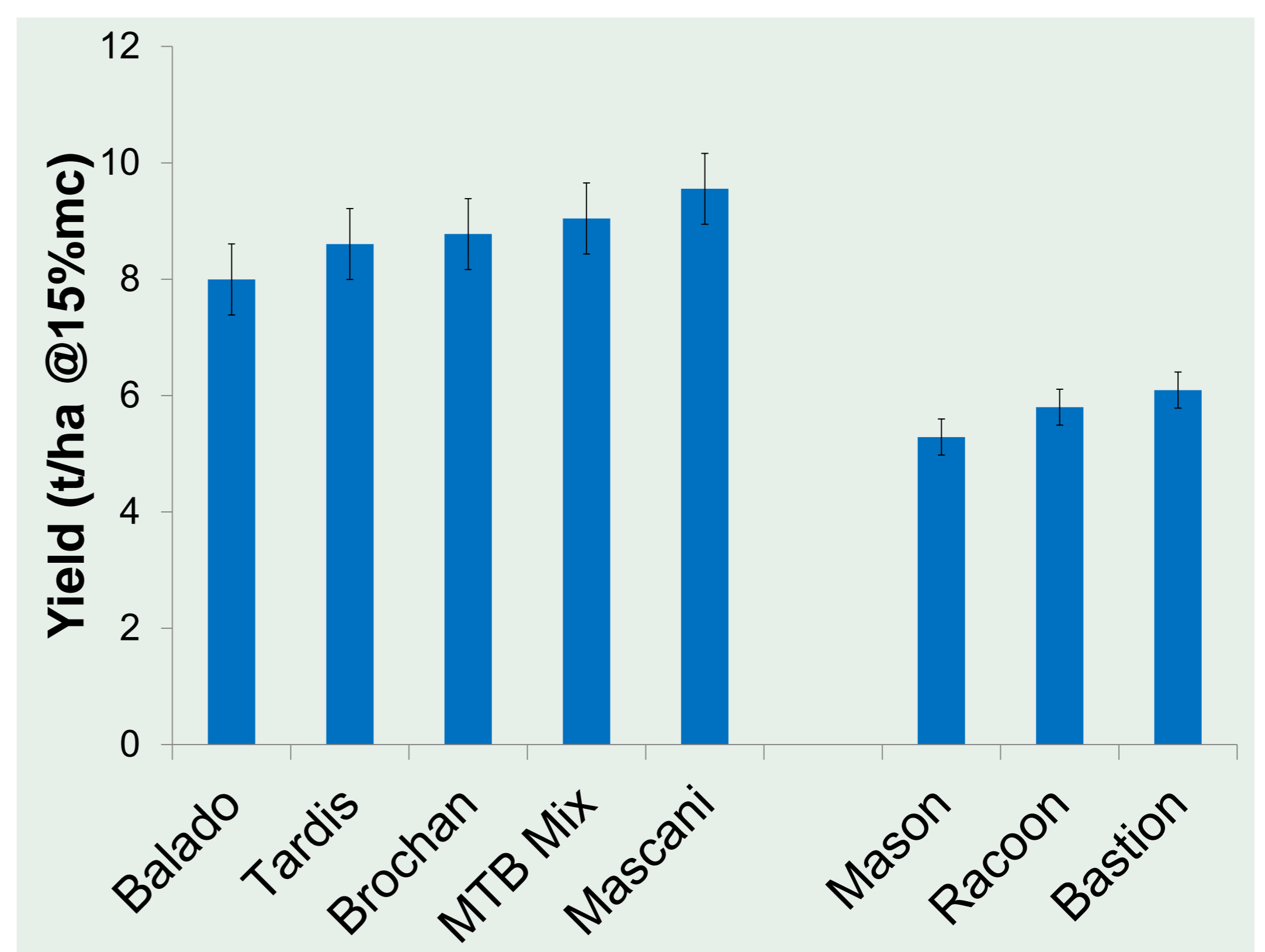


Oats: an outstanding organic crop

“QUOATS”, a research project led by IBERS, Aberystwyth University, brings together a wide range of organisations in the supply chain, from breeders to end-users, to improve the quality and performance of oats. As part of the project, the Organic Research Centre is carrying out field trials to assess the suitability of new oat lines for organic management systems, with particular emphasis on nutrient use efficiency. Eight varieties are being trialled at Wakelyns Agroforestry, Suffolk.

Organic oats trials 2009-10

- Despite the drought conditions in spring, the organic oats yielded well
- Varieties were trialled under 2 fertility regimes: untreated and treated with organic chicken manure pellets (80kg N/ha)
- The added fertility had no significant effect on yield, but it did significantly increase straw height and lodging
- Average yield for husked oats was 8.8t/ha. Mascani yielded 9.6t/ha
- Average yield for naked oats was 5.7t/ha. Bastion yielded 6.1t/ha



Oats are ideal for use in organic systems:

- ✓ **Good nutrient scavenging ability**
- ✓ **Able to smother weeds**
- ✓ **Yields are generally 80% of conventional levels, compared to 60% for wheat**

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