

Spring barley 2026



MBC malting varieties																												
	Beller	Firefoxx	Laureate	Skyway	SY Tennyson	LG Diablo	RGT Planet	KWS Sassy		Bounty	SY Arrow	Firecracker	Plarmigan	LG Aquarius	Nolan	KWS Enduris	Olsen		Hurler	NOS Gambit		CB Score	Fairing		Trailblazer	Roulette	Shona	Average LSD (5%)
End-use group	Approved									Provisional									Feed			Described			Under test for malting			
Scope of recommendation	UK	UK	UK	UK	UK	UK	UK	UK		UK	UK	UK	UK	UK	UK	UK	UK		UK	UK		Null-Lox	Gr.Dis		UK	UK	E	
Variety status	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C							NEW				*	*					NEW	NEW	NEW	
Fungicide-treated grain yield (% treated control)																												
United Kingdom (7.8 t/ha)	104	102	102	102	101	98	96	94		105	104	103	103	103	103	102	102		104	104		100	92		106	105	104	2.2
East region (7.9 t/ha)	104	102	101	102	101	98	96	92		107	104	102	102	105	101	101	102		104	104		100	92		105	103	106	2.9
West region (7.4 t/ha)	105	103	104	102	100	97	95	93		105	[105]	[105]	[105]	103	[104]	[103]	101		105	105		100	94		[109]	[107]	[103]	3.6
North region (8.0 t/ha)	104	102	102	101	101	99	97	95		105	103	103	103	101	102	102	102		104	103		100	91		105	104	102	2.6
Untreated grain yield (% treated control)																												
United Kingdom (7.8 t/ha)	89	86	88	85	82	82	82	80		84	86	91	89	87	88	89	86		86	89		85	78		88	92	86	2.6
Disease resistance																												
Mildew (1–9)	8	8	9	8	8	8	9	8		8	9	9	9	8	9	8	8		8	8		9	7		9	9	8	0.4
Brown rust (1–9)	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	5		4	5	5	5	4	4	4	4		5	5		5	4		4	6	4	0.7
Rhynchosporium (1–9)	6	6	6	5	5	5	6	6		6	7	5	6	5	5	6	5		6	6		5	8		5	4	4	1.5
Net blotch (1–9)	7	7	8	6	5	7	5	[5]		7	[8]	[8]	[8]	6	[8]	[6]	6		7	8		8	7		[7]	[6]	[7]	1.7
Agronomic features																												
Resistance to lodging without PGR (1–9)	7	7	6	7	7	6	7	[6]		7	[7]	[7]	[7]	7	[6]	[7]	8		8	7		7	7		[8]	[6]	[6]	1.1
Straw length without PGR (cm)	68	69	69	74	70	71	72	78		69	72	70	71	70	69	74	70		66	68		70	69		72	72	72	1.4
Ripening (days +/- RGT Planet)	+2	0	+1	+1	+2	+2	0	+2		+2	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+2		+1	+1		+1	-2		+1	+2	+1	1.0
Resistance to brackling (1–9)	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	6		7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7		8	7		7	7		7	7	7	0.4
Main market options																												
MBC malting approval for brewing use	F	-	F	F	F	F	F	Nt		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		-	Nt		-	-		T	T	T	
MBC malting approval for malt distilling use	P	F	F	-	F	F	Nt	F		-	P	P	P	-	P	P	P		-	-		-	-		T	T	T	
Grain quality																												
Specific weight (kg/hl)	68.4	67.9	68.0	70.0	67.1	68.4	69.5	69.6		66.5	67.7	69.0	69.4	69.0	67.9	67.9	67.6		67.1	68.0		68.7	69.7		68.7	68.5	68.0	0.6
Screenings (% through 2.25 mm)	0.9	1.4	1.2	0.9	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.0		1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.9		1.5	0.9		1.3	0.9		1.1	1.6	1.7	0.3
Screenings (% through 2.5 mm)	2.2	3.5	3.0	2.2	2.9	3.3	3.3	2.2		3.9	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.7	2.8	2.6	4.6		4.0	2.1		3.3	2.3		2.6	3.8	4.3	0.8
Nitrogen content (%)	1.48	-	1.45	[1.48]	1.40	1.44	1.48	-		1.44	1.38	1.43	1.46	1.42	1.46	1.45	1.43		[1.43]	1.47		-	-		1.43	1.42	1.43	0.05
Malting quality																												
Hot water extract (l deg/kg)	315.0	-	315.2	315.0	317.2	314.9	314.5	-		315.4	316.5	317.0	315.4	315.1	316.6	316.0	316.7		313.6	314.5		-	-		315.8	317.1	316.5	1.9
Predicted spirit yield (laa/t)	437.4	-	436.2	-	439.0	436.8	-	-		436.7	438.6	437.7	437.5	438.7	437.9	435.8	437.6		[434.1]	-		-	-		439.4	436.8	437.6	3.8
Annual treated yield (% control)																												
2021 (8.0 t/ha)	104	103	102	101	103	99	95	94		106	-	-	-	102	-	-	102		105	103		100	92		-	-	-	-
2022 (7.9 t/ha)	104	101	101	102	102	98	97	96		107	103	104	103	104	103	102	103		104	104		100	92		-	-	-	-
2023 (7.6 t/ha)	103	103	102	101	98	99	96	94		104	104	102	103	102	101	102	101		103	104		98	91		105	104	103	-
2024 (8.0 t/ha)	105	102	103	101	101	99	95	92		106	105	104	102	103	104	102	102		105	104		101	93		106	105	105	-
2025 (7.5 t/ha)	105	103	103	103	101	94	97	-		105	104	103	104	103	102	103	102		105	105		102	93		106	105	103	-
Breeder/UK contact																												
Breeder	Sec	Ack	SyP	NS	SyP	LimE	RAGT	KWS		NS	SyP	Sec	Sec	Lim	Sej	KWSL	Sej		Sec	NS		Cal	SyP		Sec	Sec	Ack	
UK contact	Agr	EAB	Syn	Agr	Syn	Lim	RAGT	KWS		AgV	Syn	SecU	SecU	Lim	Sen	KWS	Lim		Agr	Sen		ADM	Syn		SecU	SecU	EAB	
Status in RL system																												
Year first listed	24	20	16	21	23	18	15	16		24	25	25	25	24	26	25	24		23	24		22	16		26	26	26	
RL status	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	P2	P2	P2	-	P1	P2	-		*	*		-	-		P1	P1	P1	

Varieties no longer listed: Diviner and SY Signet.

Null-Lox and grain-distilling (Gr.Dis) spring barley varieties are described. Data is provided for information only and does not constitute a recommendation.

Null-Lox varieties lack a gene for lipogenase production.

Growers are strongly advised to check with their buyer before committing to a malting variety without full MBC approval.

Roulette and Shona will be added to the GB and NI Variety Lists (VL) in January 2026, provided no representations are received.

Comparisons of variety performance across regions are not valid.

On the 1–9 scales, high figures indicate that a variety shows the character to a high degree (e.g. high resistance).

UK = Recommended for the UK

E = Recommended for the East region

C = Yield control

MBC = Malting Barley Committee

[] = Limited data

PGR = Plant growth regulator

F = Full MBC approval in this segment

P = Provisional MBC approval in this segment

T = Under test for MBC approval in this segment

Nt = Not approved by MBC in this segment

P1 = First year of listing

P2 = Second year of listing

LSD = Least significant difference

Average LSD (5%): Varieties that are more than one LSD apart are significantly different at the 95% confidence level

Ack = Ackermann Saatzzucht GmbH (sz-ackermann.de)

ADM = ADM Agriculture Ltd (adm-agri.co.uk)

Agr = Agrii (agrii.co.uk)

AgV = Agrovista UK Ltd (agrovista.co.uk)

Cal = Carlsberg Research Laboratory

EAB = Elsoms Ackermann Barley (elsoms.com)

KWS = KWS UK (kws-uk.com)

KWSL = KWS Lochow GmbH (kws-uk.com)

Lim = Limagrain UK (lgseeds.co.uk)

LimE = Limagrain Europe SA (lgseeds.co.uk)

NS = Nordic Seed, Denmark (nordicseed.com)

RAGT = RAGT Seeds (ragt.co.uk)

Sec = Secobra, France (secobra.fr/en/accueil)

SecU = Secobra UK (secobra.co.uk)

Sej = Sejet, Denmark (sejet.com)

Sen = Senova (senova.uk.com)

Syn = Syngenta UK Ltd (syngenta.co.uk)

SyP = Syngenta Participations AG (syngenta.co.uk)