

Results Field Trials – Harvest 1999

Executive Summary

Submitted on behalf of the EBC Barley & Malt Committee

For many years the EBC Barley & Malt Committee have organised a trials system for the evaluation of potential new malting barley varieties. The trials are conducted on the basis of 4 regions: North, West, Central and South, and include both winter and spring varieties. Varieties accepted into the trials system are judged over 2 years against standard varieties, varieties that are grown on a large scale and also widely used by the Malting and Brewing Industry. For Harvest 1999 trials the standard varieties are Esterel (6-row), Angora, Clarine, Regina (winter varieties), and Alexis, Scarlet (spring varieties). The results of each years trials are published in the following spring as “Results Field Trials Harvest 1999”. The results of both barley and malt analysis are listed on both national and regional bases. Traditionally the results have been published without any interpretation. In May 2000 the EBC Barley & Malt Committee were granted approval by the EBC Council to produce a critique of the results. The 4 chairmen of the regional trials groups have been asked to comment on varieties in their trials that appear to have properties that may be of future interest to the Malting and Brewing Industry, particularly where varieties show improvements on the standards. It should be noted that the comments may only be based on 1 year’s data and are no more than an informed judgement. However further data on the highlighted varieties can be obtained from the “Results Field Trials Harvest 1999”.

Winter Varieties

The same 6 varieties were trialed in all regions in both Year 2 and Year 1 trials. From those varieties completing their 2nd year of trials Tiffany is considered to be an improvement in both grain and malt quality compared with the standards, a lack of dormancy, high extracts and good Diastatic Power (DP) were noted. Spirit and Tulip have quality equal to the standard variety Regina. None of the varieties in Year 1 trials is considered to be an improvement on the standard varieties but Lambic, Opal and Pearl are all varieties of comparable quality to the standards, all with good DP.

Spring Varieties

The varieties trialed in both years of spring variety trials varied from region to region and therefore any comments reflect the relative performance of each variety in the specific region.

- ❑ In Region North the variety Lux is highlighted from the varieties that have completed 2 years of trials, as being an improvement in both grain and malt quality, specifically high grain yield, no dormancy, high extract and high DP. Lux is suitable for Southern Scandinavia. The variety Saana is considered as an acceptable malting variety for Northern Scandinavia. Of the Year 1 varieties Saloon is also considered to be an improvement on the standard varieties, good soluble nitrogen, Kolbach and DP are noted.
- ❑ In Region West the variety Aspen is highlighted from those varieties that have completed 2 years of trials; good all round grain and malt quality with in particular very good modifica-

tion, viscosity and DP. Decanter also has good all round quality but was shown to have some dormancy in the UK. Of the Year 1 varieties, Hanka, Saloon and Jersey all show promising quality in both grain and malt.

- ❑ In Region Central the variety Ricarda is highlighted from those varieties that have completed 2 years of trials for its high extract and good friability, although yield is only comparable with the standards. Pasadena is an improvement in terms of yield but malting quality is similar to the standards. Of the Year 1 varieties Annabella and Viskosa both show improvements in yield, whilst ASPEN shows the good grain and malt characteristics noted in Region West.
- ❑ In Region South the varieties Barke (malting quality) and Pyramid are highlighted, although neither is an improvement on the standard Scarlett in Year 2 trials. Of the Year 1 varieties Ormalt and Gima show promising malting quality.

Conclusion

The results of the 1999 Trials have highlighted several varieties that may be of interest to Maltsters and Brewers. Further information and Trials Data can be obtained from the national members of the EBC Barley & Malt Committee or from the EBC Secretariat, P.O. Box 510, NL-2380 BB Zoeterwoude, The Netherlands, e-mail secretariat@ebc-nl.com.

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