

# BREEDERS DIGEST

Crop, variety and seed news for agronomists

Published by Syngenta Seeds Ltd

January 2006

## Raise a toast to the success of NFC Tipple

NFC Tipple – the new top yielding spring malting barley with UK brewing and export potential – could widen growers' end market opportunities.



“Moreover, global beer consumption is forecast to increase to more than 1.9 billion hectolitres by 2015, primarily driven by Eastern Europe and Asia. With the UK's 79% pass rate for spring malting barley meeting malting requirements, there are real opportunities for UK growers.

“The key is to grow top yielding varieties that are widely accepted by buyers. With its exceptional yields and growing UK and European acceptance, we believe NFC Tipple fits that bill.”

### Good balance

Besides provisional IOB approval in the UK, five UK maltsters are also evaluating over 2,000 tonnes of NFC Tipple from harvest 2005. It has also been awarded a provisional highest grade A classification for malting quality in France and is undergoing commercial malting tests in Germany, Denmark and Sweden.

A good balance of all the main quality criteria that maltsters and end users look for, including HWE, DP, viscosity, beta glucans and SNRs, has been key to its success.

Additionally, it is straightforward to grow. It has good disease resistance and very stiff straw – with a 9 rating for resistance to lodging and 8 for resistance to brackling.

But probably most importantly, given recent end user shifts back towards grain with a lower nitrogen content e.g. <1.75N, it is an inherently low grain nitrogen producer, typically 0.05 - 0.1 N below Optic. That can make it easier to achieve required malting specifications.

NFC TIPPLE has already been awarded provisional approval 1 for brewing by the Institute of Brewing (IOB) in the UK. Now, it also remains the spring malting barley variety with the highest national treated yield on the HGCA Recommended List 2006.

At 107% it offers a full 9% yield advantage over the UK's mainstay spring malting barley, Optic. On top of that, it is progressing well in malting tests across Europe.

If successful, that could make it a pan European spring malting variety, says Simon Phillips of NFC, potentially opening up further opportunities for UK growers.

“Spring barley continues to offer real advantages for UK growers,” explains Mr Phillips. “With low fuel and fertiliser requirements, it is a highly cost-effective crop to grow.



## Boosting your barley yields!



FARMERS looking for high winter barley yields will have a new option to choose from with news that the UK's second ever hybrid barley, Boost, has been added to the latest HGCA Recommended List 2006/07 with a full UK recommendation.

With a UK treated yield of 109%, six-row Boost offers similar output to current hybrid Colossus, with good grain size, similar to that of Sequel, improved disease resistance and good standing power, says NFC's Robert Hiles.

"At 69.4 kg/hl on the HGCA Recommended List 2006/07, Boost really does have excellent specific weight," says Mr Hiles.

"On top of that, resistance ratings to mildew, brown rust, yellow rust and net blotch have all been improved over Colossus. Yet the same robust 8 rating for Rhynchosporium resistance has been retained. Vitally important, Boost also provides resistance to barley yellow mosaic virus. Such robust agronomics should give growers who haven't grown hybrid barley before the confidence to try."

### Watch out for forward crops

WATCH out for forward wheat and barley crops as we head into the new year. Thick canopies, resulting from early drilling and a mild autumn, will need managing very differently when it comes to disease control and use of PGRs.

### Straw yield may not be linked to height

SPRING barley growers using straw height as a guide to varieties that will give the greatest straw yield may not be using the best indicator, independent farm trials managed by Scottish Agronomy suggest.

Conducted near Forfar, the first trial compared three feed spring barley varieties each with different crop heights on the HGCA Recommended List 2006 – Waggon at 74 cm, Doyen at 71 cm and Riviera at 82 cm.

#### Grain output

Instead of showing that straw yield increased with increasing straw height, findings revealed it was more closely correlated with grain output.

The tallest variety Riviera produced the lowest straw output at 3.5 t/ha, and also had the lowest grain yield at 6.3 t/ha.

Meanwhile the shortest variety Doyen produced the middle straw output of 3.8 t/ha, and at a grain yield of 7.0 t/ha.

But the highest straw yield of all, at 4.8 t/ha, came from newcomer Waggon, which produced 7.6 t/ha of grain.

#### Extra return

A second trial also showed that straw output increased with increasing grain yield.

"In this work a shorter variety gave 1.3 t/ha more straw," says Simon Phillips of NFC. "At a straw price of say £20-70/t, depending on time of year and location, that's an extra £26 – £91/ha return for the grower. That's without taking into account the extra grain.

"With barley straw being so valuable, straw height has been a big factor in variety choice. Now, perhaps growers will question whether this is the right thing to look at," he adds.

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