

# BREEDERS DIGEST

Crop, variety and seed news for agronomists

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## Tipping the balance in favour of Publican

New spring barley Publican offers growers significantly more yield than Optic and for distillers it offers similar quality. In this issue of Breeders Digest we provide topical husbandry tips to help barley growers achieve their full potential.



As well as having distilling potential, Publican is also progressing for brewing in European tests

Just when whisky demand is seeing distillers looking to increase production, along comes a variety which takes yields to a new level.

Undergoing its farmer (C2) launch this year, Publican has provisional approval 1 for distilling from the Institute of Brewing and Distilling – coupled with the highest UK treated yield of any spring barley variety with provisional or full IBD approval for distilling on the latest HGCA Recommended List 2008/09.

“Commercial evaluations are taking place with four or five distilleries,” explains Simon Phillips of Syngenta Seeds. “As well as distilling potential, it is also undergoing commercial brewing evaluation in Northern Europe. So could offer export opportunities too.”

Agronomy-wise, Publican has excellent resistance to Rhynchosporium and mildew, good standing power, bold grains and low levels of skinning and gape.



- ✓ NEW potential distilling barley with Optic-like quality but higher yields

### Performance

- High yields in all UK regions (UK treated yield 105%\*)
- Excellent resistance to Rhynchosporium (8\*) and mildew (8\*)
- Good resistance to lodging and brackling

\* Data from the HGCA Recommended Lists database, full database at [www.hgca.com](http://www.hgca.com)

### Growth habit

- Medium tillering (similar to Optic)

### Drilling dates and seed rates

Scotland: Feb-Mar 375 seeds/m<sup>2</sup>  
England: Jan-Mar 350-375 seeds/m<sup>2</sup>

No yield advantage from increasing or decreasing seed rates

### Fertiliser use and grain N

- Consistently produces grain N levels below Optic
- Delaying N from standard timings of 60 kg pre-emergence and 60 kg @ GS11 did not significantly affect grain N in Scottish 2007 trial but did reduce yield
- Increasing N fertiliser dose increased yield, but also increased grain N

### Fungicides

Crop Protection Standard Programmes – ensure cover for brown rust

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## Hybrid agronomy pays off



With high grain prices, protecting output from top-yielding hybrid barley BRONX should be well worthwhile this season. See below.

### Nitrogen application

Emphasis on early applications at GS25 and GS29 is important to retain tillers and promote growth with BRONX – resulting in increased yields and grain quality. ‘Traditional’ programmes (e.g. Nil at GS25, 50% at GS29, 50% at GS32/33, and Nil at GS39/45) can be detrimental. We advise 10-15% at GS 25, 45% at GS 29, 40-45% at GS 33.

### Disease control

With good resistance to net blotch and Rhynchosporium, BRONX offers a robust option. Nevertheless, a planned fungicide programme tailored to include rust and mildew should be used.

#### <GS30: KAYAK +/- morpholine

(Consider in more extreme disease pressure situations)

#### GS31/32: KAYAK + triazole\* or AMISTAR OPTI\*

#### GS 39-49: AMISTAR OPTI + triazole\*

\* rust active triazole

### Lodging management

BRONX has moderate straw strength.

#### Medium soils (occasional lodging)

MODDUS + chlormequat (0.1 + 1.25 l/ha) at GS31. Follow with a suitable PGR at GS37/39 if lush growth in March and early April

#### In fertile situations (increased lodging risk)

Split applications have increased yields and reduced lodging. Consider 0.1 l/ha MODDUS + 1.0 l/ha chlormequat at GS29 and at GS31. Follow with a suitable PGR at GS37/39

## Flagon agronomy tips



### Nitrogen application for malting

Always take care to target grain nitrogen to meet end users specifications when aiming for malting. Many malting barley growers use 100-120kg/ha with a split dressing. For FLAGON, consider 40kg/ha in mid to late February and the remainder by the end of March.

### PGR – core guidelines

**GS32: 0.2 l/ha MODDUS + 1.25 l/ha chlormequat** at onset of stem extension

In lush tall crops apply:

**GS37: 0.2 l/ha MODDUS** or 1.0 l/ha ethephon + mepiquat chloride but NOT in drought/dry conditions

### Fungicide use

Consider a similar programme to BRONX.

## Agronomy tips for NFC Tipple

### Late Drilling

The table below shows suggested number of seeds per square metre in good conditions.

	England	Scotland
March	350-375	375-400
April	375-400	400

### Nitrogen application

Many growers know how much N to apply to Optic for 1.65% grain nitrogen. For NFC Tipple, the following is a rule of thumb: 125-150 kg/ha N (in most situations)

Syngenta Seeds Ltd, CPC4, Capital Park, Fulbourn, Cambridge CB21 5XE. Tel: 01223 883400 Fax: 01223 882195

Email: nfc.enquiries@syngenta.com Website: www.newfarmcrops.co.uk

Registered in England No 345486. Registered Office 30 Priestly Road, Surrey Research Park, Guildford GU2 7HY

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Syngenta Crop Protection UK Ltd. Address and telephone numbers as for Syngenta Seeds. Technical Enquiries Tel: 0800 169 6058 Website: www.syngenta-crop.co.uk

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