



UK MALTING BARLEY CROP 2020

Harvest 2020

Overall, harvest 2020 barley crop yields are below the five-year average, though spring barley performed slightly above (mainly in Scotland). There is a marked difference in the quality of crops harvested before and after the late August rainfall and Storm Francis: Before—low moisture levels and slightly above average nitrogen levels; After—above average moisture levels and significantly above average nitrogen levels particularly in English spring barley crops. The AHDB Harvest Report prepared by ADAS outlined the 2020 barley crop as follows:

Winter barley harvest progress in 2020 was ahead of 2019 and in line with the early harvest of 2018.

- **Yield:** National average yield estimate of 6.5-6.7t/ha is below the five-year average of 7.1t/ha. Farm yields were variable across the season, ranging from 3.7-10.0t/ha. Generally, hybrids yielded 8.5t/ha, balanced with crops of below 5.0t/ha for many two-row malting varieties. Overall, malting varieties have yielded 4.5-7.4t/ha.
- **Quality:** Winter barley was harvested in good weather early in the season. However, grain nitrogen levels were high throughout the season. Specific weights were maintained throughout harvest, with only occasional reports of lower specific weights, where crop establishment was poor due to challenging weather conditions at sowing.

Spring barley harvest's average season yield varied depending on how well crops fared in dry spring or recovered from August storm damage. High winds and heavy rain caused lodging in around 10-15% of spring barley.

- **Yield:** Estimated national average yield between 5.8-6.0/ha, compared to five-year average of 5.8 t/ha. Malting crops yielded in the range between 4.5-8.6t/ha. Higher yields tended to be from better structured soils, with some of the best yields reported in Scotland, at 8.0-9.0t/ha.
- **Quality:** Spring barley harvested in early August was reasonable, with specific weights averaging about 65kg/hl. As harvest progressed, specific weights of crops affected by August rains declined to a September average closer to 61 kg/hl. Overall quality deteriorated slightly, with later harvested crops showing issues with sprouted grains.

Most malting barley crops reached specification as below:

- **Specific weight:** winter barley averaged 64kg/hl typically in region of 60-69kg/hl throughout harvest period. Spring barley typically 53-66kg/hl; averaging 61kg/hl for September harvested crops; seasonal range 53-67kg/hl.
- **Grain nitrogen (malting varieties):** winter average 1.8%; ranged between 1.6-2.0% throughout the season. Spring typically between 1.4-1.9% averaging 1.7%. Seasonal grain nitrogen ranged between 1.3-2.2%.
- **Screenings:** winter typically around 2-7%. Spring 2-9% throughout the season; 2-6% in September harvested crops. Occasional reports of screenings as high as 12% from late sown crops that struggled due to water stress.
- **Moisture:** winter averaged 15%; range between 13-17%. Samples with more than 14.5% moisture were dried. Spring ranged between 12-19%, with most crops coming in at 15% or below during final weeks of harvest.
- **Germination:** winter typically 90-98% throughout the season. Spring between 90-99%; typically, 96-98% in final weeks of harvest. Occasional reports of later harvested crops with germination levels as low as 80-90%.

The accompanying MAGB members consolidated maltings intake data for Crop 2020 barley received up to 30th September show the actual average quality of the malting barley selected by members from the unusually variable 2020 harvest

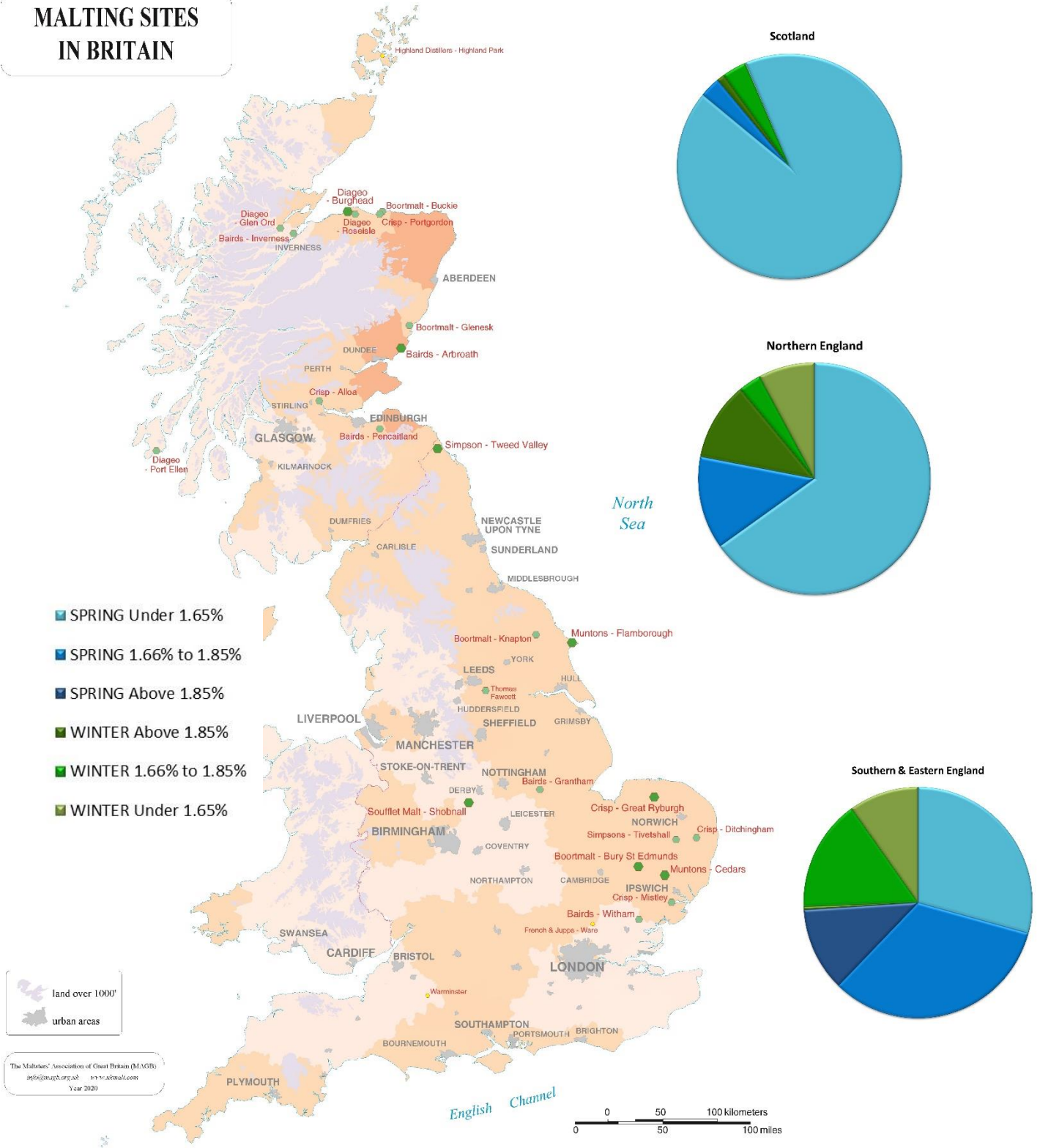
Surveys

Spring Barley variety	Concerto	Planet	Laureate	Sassy	Diablo	Others	Spring Average
Nitrogen %	1.48	1.75	1.56	1.42	1.44	1.74	1.55
Screenings <2.25mm %	1.8	1.3	2.7	1.2	2.0	2.6	2.4
Retention >2.5mm %	95.8	96.1	93.6	97.1	95.5	93.2	94.1
Moisture %	16.6	14.3	16.0	17.5	16.1	16.1	16.1
Winter Barley variety	Flagon	Craft	Maris Otter	Others	Winter Average		Total Average
Nitrogen %	1.63	1.67	1.62	1.86	1.69		1.56
Screenings <2.25mm %	2.3	1.8	2.0	1.5	1.9		2.4
Retention >2.5mm %	92.0	95.0	92.6	95.5	94.1		94.1
Moisture %	14.1	14.6	14.0	15.8	14.6		15.9

MAGB Mycotoxin Monitoring - Harvest 2020	
	DON µg/kg
Number of samples	364
Mean	63.8
Maximum	750
Minimum	0

UK Barley Areas

MALTING SITES IN BRITAIN



The barley growing areas of the UK are largely on the east of the country, with particular concentrations in East Anglia, Yorkshire and the east of Scotland. These easterly areas have soils and climate suited for producing excellent quality malting barleys.