



# UK MALTING BARLEY HARVEST REVIEW 2023

Overall, UK harvest progress in 2023 could best be described as variable. This variability was seen in grain size, nitrogen levels and skinned corns. Reported yields were average, but again variable depending on land type and area. Weather impacted quality and plantings greatly this season.

**Spring barley** harvest in England and Wales commenced early August and completed in most regions by mid-September. Harvest in North East England and Scotland reached completion by mid October, as a result of late spring planting and variable weather, especially in August. Nitrogen content of Spring barley in English regions easily met maltsters' specifications but with lower than average found in those regions where spring sowing was completed by end of February. Quality in Scotland started off variable with higher than normal nitrogen content resulting in merchants and maltsters adjusting quality intake parameters allowing acceptance for majority of the crop. In Scotland skinned corns were an issue across all regions, with no specific variety immune to the problem. Yields were average, reported to be around 6.0-6.5t/ha in England and 5.8-6.0t/ha in Scotland. Moisture content of harvested barley in England and Scotland was notably higher, due to increased rainfall in August.

**Winter barley** harvest in England commenced mid July and was largely completed in most regions by mid August. Quality of the 2023 crop in England is best described as variable, nitrogen content and grain size fluctuated across regions. A lack of late spring rainfall resulted in many crops with lower than average retention and higher grain nitrogen content. In Scotland harvest commenced 7-10 days later than English regions but quality was very similar to that in England as lack of rain impacted grain retention and nitrogen content levels.

**Most malting barley crops reached specification as below:**

- **Specific weight** – UK Winter barley average estimated at 63-65kg/hl; Spring barley 59-62kg/hl.
- **Grain Nitrogen (malting varieties)** – Winter barley averaged 1.5-1.7% . Spring barley also averaged 1.5-1.7%, with malting varieties falling within specification.
- **Screenings** – Winter barley typically in 2-5% range. Spring barley also ranged between 2-5%.
- **Moisture** - Winter barley averaged 14-18% moisture content because of widespread wet weather at the beginning of harvest. Spring barley UK averaged between 14-17%.
- **Germination (malting varieties)** – Winter barley typically averaging between 96-98%; Spring barley UK average is also between 96-98%.

## Surveys

Spring Barley variety	Planet	Laureate	Sassy	Diablo	Firefoxx	Others	Spring Average
Nitrogen %	1.65	1.56	1.55	1.54	1.60	1.88	1.58
Screenings <2.25mm %	3.1	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.3	4.5	2.3
Retention >2.5mm %	90.0	95.6	96.0	96.0	97.7	91.9	95.2
Moisture %	14.8	15.6	16.5	16.3	16.5	15.8	15.8
Winter Barley variety	Flagon	Craft	Electrum	Maris Otter	Others	Winter Average	Total Average
Nitrogen %	1.47	1.63	1.57	1.48	1.61	1.57	1.58
Screenings <2.25mm %	5.0	4.7	4.7	6.0	4.7	5.0	2.8
Retention >2.5mm %	86.6	89.5	93.3	85.7	93.7	89.5	94.2
Moisture %	15.4	15.9	14.9	14.8	16.4	15.7	15.8

### MAGB Mycotoxin Monitoring Harvest 2023

Reports from malting intakes generally point to a low incidence of mycotoxins; a full picture will be available once retained barley samples have been analysed in due diligence surveys. Ergot, which has been a problem in recent years, was rarely seen, since it was successfully removed prior to delivery of grain to maltsters.

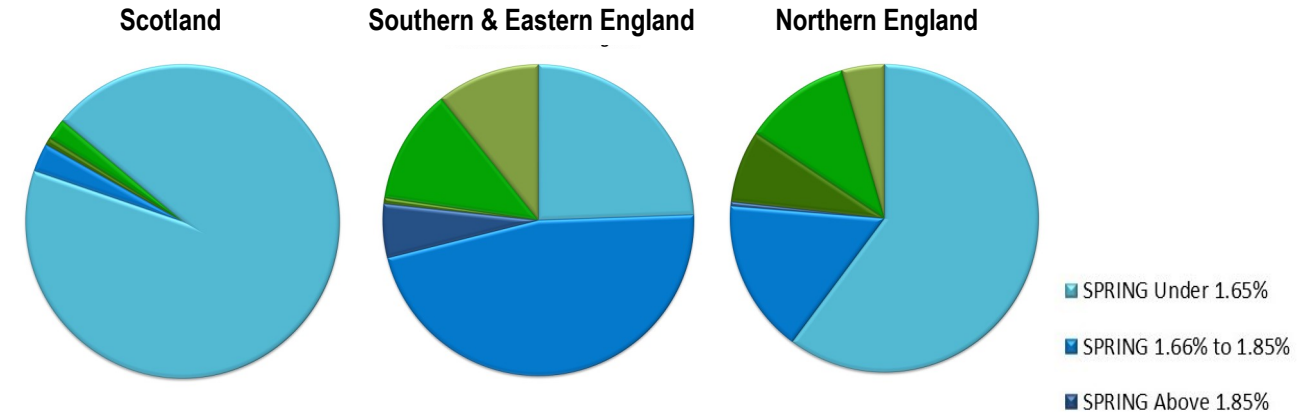


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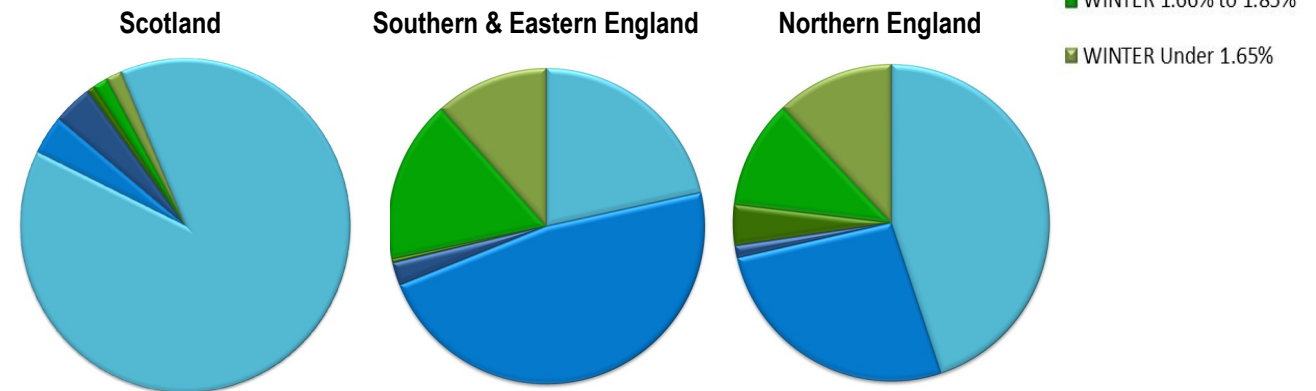
## MALTING SITES IN BRITAIN



## Wish List 2023 by nitrogen band



## Actual purchases 2023 by nitrogen band (up to 30th September 2023)



*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.*