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RECOMMENDED BARLEY VARIETIES, 1965

By J. L. McMULLAN, B.Sc. (Hons.), Plant Breeder

THE varieties Prior and Beecher are recommended for 1965 by the Coarse Grains Advisory Committee and the Department of Agriculture.

The areas suitable for these varieties when planted for various purposes, are given in the map and table.

Barley as a Grain Crop

As Prior is an early-midseason maturing barley it should be grown in districts that normally enjoy good finishing conditions. There it will produce large starchy grains which are most suitable for malting. For this reason, general planting should be confined to the midseason zone.

Beecher, being an early maturing 6-row barley, may be sown generally throughout the early and midseason zones. If sown in the late zone, both Prior and Beecher should be planted late to avoid the risk of spring frost damage and to minimise staining.

At the present time no barley variety suitable for general planting in the late zone is available but several promising English and American barleys are under test.

Use of Nitrogen Fertiliser

Since barley is often planted on light soils, which may be low in fertility, nitrogen fertilisers can be used to raise yields. If applied at or soon after seeding yields may be increased without adversely affecting the malting quality of the grain. The rates of nitrogen recommended vary with the soil and district—low rates may be profitable in low rainfall areas or on soils that have carried good leguminous pastures, while higher rates may be satisfactorily used in higher rainfall areas or on soils of lower fertility.

Beecher Barley for Grazing

The barley variety Beecher is recommended for planting for early green grazing in the early and midseason zones. Here it should prove superior to all oat varieties not only in early growth but in recovery for grain yield.

Barleys particularly suitable for the late zone are not yet available but Beecher may be used for grazing, when it will produce as much as Avon, and Fulmark oats but may recover to yield more grain.

Prior barley should not be used for grazing as this will adversely affect the malting quality of the grain.

DESCRIPTION OF VARIETIES

Brief descriptions of the individual varieties recommended are given below.

PRIOR

Early midseason maturing 2-row barley whose grain is generally suitable for malting. It is medium to fine strawed, of medium height, but very subject to the heads breaking off in windy conditions. Tolerant of barley yellow dwarf virus disease. This variety originated in South Australia and is thought to be a strain of English Archer.

BEECHER

Early maturing 6-row barley which has white grain. It has straw of medium height and thickness and loses few heads in windy conditions. Susceptible to barley yellow dwarf virus disease. This variety was bred in the U.S.A. from the cross Atlas x Vaughn.
### Barley for Grain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Early Planting</th>
<th>Late Planting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early</td>
<td>Beecher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midseason</td>
<td>Beecher</td>
<td>Prior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late</td>
<td>Beecher</td>
<td>Prior</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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[Map showing Barley for Grain zones with towns marked.]

**Major testing centres shown thus ☐**