UK MALTING BARLEY CROP 2017

Harvest 2017

Harvest 2017 appear to be close to, or slightly above the five-year average. Quality varied across regions and with harvest dates. Winter barley harvest was completed in all regions by 22 August, with spring barley harvest 80% complete by end of September

Winter barley

- **Yield**: National yield estimate of 6.8-7.0 t/ha, slightly above the five-year average of 6.8 t/ha.
- **Quality**: Most winter malting barley met specification, with specific weights averaging 64-65 kg/hl; nitrogen content averaging 1.6% and screening levels through a 2.25mm sieve ranging from between 5% (East) and 10% (North).

Spring barley

- **Yield**: National yield estimate of 5.6-5.8 t/ha, slightly above the five-year average of 5.6 t/ha.
- **Quality**: Varied across regions, with specific weights averaging 63-64 kg/hl; nitrogen content averaging 1.7% and screening levels through a 2.25mm sieve ranging between 2-8%.

Unsettled weather prolonged the challenge of harvest in Scotland and the North, with progress influenced by availability of harvest opportunities between showers. This is turn has increased the potential for lodging estimated at 18% this year.

Winter barley yields in 2017 were variable, with a range of 4-10 t/ha. The control mean for AHDB Recommended List trials was 0.8% down on the 5-year average control (based on 20 sites) which indicated yields are close to or slightly below average.

Spring barley yield was variable, with above average yields reported in the South West and East; average in Wales, South East and Yorkshire; below average in the Midlands. Yields in Scotland are 5% higher than the farm average. AHDB Recommended List data shows 2017 yields 5% down on the five-year average.

Winter and spring barley quality – most winter malting barley met its specifications this year, with much having been harvested before suffering from adverse effects of unsettled weather. Spring barley quality varied across the regions. Nitrogen levels were generally higher than normal, and moisture levels have also been higher, with some reports of pre-germination. Other quality parameters reported to be good in all regions, with low ergot levels.

- **Specific weight** – winter barley average 64-65 kg/hl, within a wide range of 58-70 kg/hl. Spring barley average 63-64 kg/hl within a range of 62-66 kg/hl.
- **Grain protein** – average grain nitrogen content of winter barley malting varieties is 1.6%, within a range of 1.3-1.8% and in line with the three-year average (1.6%). Spring barley malting varieties have an average nitrogen content of 1.7% within a range of 1.5-2.0%.
- **Screenings** – winter barley high in some areas, typical range between 5-10%. Spring barley screenings range from 2-8%.
- **Moisture** – winter barley average of 16%, range 15-20%. Spring barley average 17%, range 15-19%.

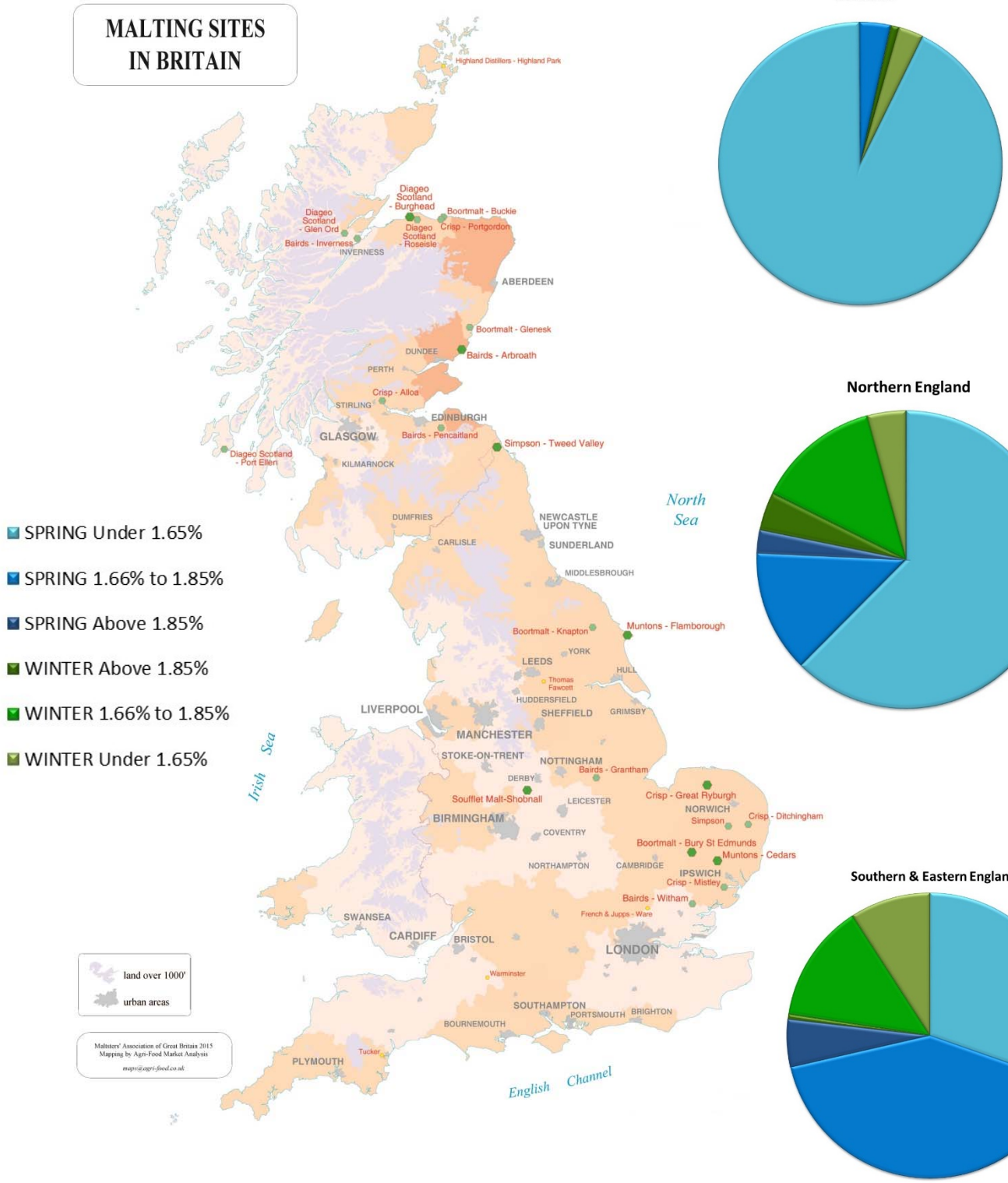
Surveys

Spring Barley variety		Concerto	Odyssey	Octavia	Propino	Irina	Planet	Laureate	Sienna	Sassy	Others
Nitrogen	%	1.52	1.66	1.47	1.76	1.71	1.65	1.51	1.52	1.44	1.64
Screenings <2.25mm	%	2.3	2.5	2.2	1.8	2.9	2.8	2.0	2.1	1.7	3.0
Retention >2.5mm	%	89.6	92.0	95.1	94.8	93.2	92.1	95.1	95.0	96.5	93.3
Moisture	%	16.6	15.1	15.9	15.1	15.1	15.1	16.9	16.7	17.0	17.0

Winter Barley variety		Flagon	Venture	Talisman	Maris Otter	Others			Spring Average	Winter Average	Total Average
Nitrogen	%	1.53	1.63	1.64	1.48	1.74			1.58	1.62	1.59
Screenings <2.25mm	%	2.8	4.9	4.5	4.4	1.9			2.4	3.5	2.7
Retention >2.5mm	%	90.8	56.9	71.8	84.3	94.1			91.8	79.3	88.7
Moisture	%	15.0	14.9	15.5	15.0	16.2			16.4	15.4	16.1

MAGB Mycotoxin Monitoring - Harvest 2017	
	DON
Number of samples	606
	µg/kg
Mean	11.6
Maximum	400
Minimum	0

UK Barley Areas



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.