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CMBTC Releases 2015-16 Recommended Malting Barley

Varieties List

WINNIPEG – The Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre (CMBTC) has released its list of [recommended malting barley varieties for the 2015-16 crop year](#). The recommendations are based on varieties the industry has indicated will have the greatest likelihood of being selected by grain and malting companies for both domestic and export markets from the 2015 harvest.

The list is published on behalf of the members of the CMBTC with input provided by grain companies, domestic and international maltsters and brewers, and other affiliated organizations including the Brewing and Malting Barley Research Institute (BMBRI).

“Today Canadian producers can select from a portfolio of newer, higher yielding varieties”, said Peter Watts, the CMBTC Managing Director. “As certain varieties are more suited to particular growing regions or end-use markets, the CMBTC and its members recommend producers talk with their local malting barley buyer about opportunities in their area to grow and market two-row and six-row malting barley varieties.”

The evolution of the malting and brewing industry in recent years has led to new opportunities and some changes in the quality profile sought by end-users. “The emerging craft brewing industries in North America and globally now represent a significant market for malting barley and malt suppliers”, said Watts. Today the US has approximately 2,700 craft breweries according to the US Brewers Association. “The growth in the craft sector has been remarkable, although the majority of our malting barley is still being used in globally recognized beer brands which represent the largest segment of the market”.

Canada is one of the world's largest suppliers of malting barley and malt to the global brewing industry and Canadian farmers are recognized for producing some of the world's finest quality malting barley. The malting barley, malt and brewing industries contribute significantly to the Canadian economy. According to Statistics Canada, in 2013-14 Canada exported over 1.0 million tonnes of malting barley worth CDN \$337 million, and 600,000 tonnes of malt worth CDN \$395 million.

Domestically, Canadian brewers use about 230,000 tonnes of malt per year to make over 19 million hectoliters of beer. The beer economy supports 1 in every 100 jobs in Canada and generates over \$5.8 billion in tax revenues each year according to the Conference Board of Canada.

The CMBTC and its members strongly recommend use of certified seed to ensure varietal purity and increase opportunity for selection.

The CMBTC is an independent, non-profit organization funded by members of the malting barley, malt and brewing industries to conduct applied malting and brewing research and provide technical support to members and customers. CMBTC facilities include a state-of-the-art pilot malting plant and pilot brewery, located in the Canadian Grain Commission building in Winnipeg.

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