

THE BARLEY FORECAST

24th July 2020



Harvesting of 2020 crop has begun in the UK, with most of the English Winter barley cut to-date. The poor conditions last Autumn means there is a smaller area of Winter barley this season and the crop has had a rollercoaster of conditions to deal with. A wet & mild Autumn/Winter was followed by a hot & dry Spring. The Met Office declared April as the sunniest on record for the UK. There was some respite for the crop late May and into June with the rains finally arriving but it seems that extremes of weather has produced a variable and higher nitrogen Winter crop so far with nitrogen results up 0.1% on last year. Agronomic yields are reported as below average as well. As is typical for the UK we have a lot of regional variation with some of the lighter land in East Anglia suffering more than the South and South-West regions.

Early Springs have now been cut with mixed results so far – however most will not start until end of July/start of August. Because of the lack of Winter plantings (both barley and wheat) there is a much larger area of Spring barley this season, however whether it will have stood up to the weather patterns this year remains to be seen. English Spring barley has looked at lot more variable in quality through the growth stages, particularly on lighter land. Scotland didn't experience the same extremes of hot & dry during Spring and the crop is generally looking much better. However, most of the Scottish crop still has a month to go before harvesting and a lot can happen in that time.

On varieties, in England Propino volume is in decline with Planet, Laureate & Diablo gaining area. Scotland is seeing Concerto in decline with Laureate, Sassy & Diablo increasing in area.

Iain Davies
Raw Materials Manager
Bairds Malt

Met Office

Source: HadUK-Grid 01/07/2020 15:18

© Crown copyright

