

Western Australian Malt Barley Variety Receival Recommendations for the 2020/21 Harvest

Summary 2020/21 Harvest

- Bass and La Trobe and to a much lesser extent Flinders will be the main malt barley varieties sought by the trade for malting and brewing end-use in China, south-east Asia and Japan.
- La Trobe is the primary malt barley variety used in the manufacture of shochu in Japan and production of La Trobe is critical to maintaining supply to this premium market.
- The rapid grower adoption of Spartacus CL is exceeding current market demand. International customers are not yet thoroughly familiar with its malting and brewing profile or its relevance for shochu production, but interest is growing. Spartacus CL is, however, not yet the first choice for buyers of Australian malt barley. Additionally, there are market access challenges due to the potential for imidazolinone residues in Spartacus CL barley grain.
- Scope CL is in phase-out mode with segregations to be halted after the 2020/21 harvest. The decline in the planting of Scope CL coincides with reduced international demand and the emergence of Spartacus CL.
- While RGT Planet is recognised internationally, it is new to Australian barley and malt customers. As such, they are not entirely familiar with its malting and brewing performance when grown under Australian conditions. As with Spartacus CL, there is potential for supply to exceed market demand at the 2020/21 harvest.
- Baudin has been phased out as export malt entity, and no segregations will be offered for it at the 2020/21 harvest. Growers who have previously supplied Baudin under a domestic malt barley contract should confirm any continuing demand before planting it in autumn 2020.
- Segregation opportunities for Bass, Flinders, La Trobe, RGT Planet, Scope CL and Spartacus CL vary by port zone and for the Kwinana and Albany Ports, within a port zone (Table 1).

Table 1. Western Australian malt and food barley industry variety recommendations by Port Zone for the 2020/21 harvest

YES	This is a recommended variety for this production zone.
Limited	Limited segregations likely due to low production hectares, limited market demand, a new variety going through market development or phasing out an old variety.
Niche	Subject to availability. Niche segregation only available if a marketer has sufficient tonnage to supply to a domestic or international customer. Marketers will need to contact CBH to negotiate a niche segregation and growers will need to contact their preferred marketer for availability.
NO	Variety has been phased out, or marketers are not looking to accumulate this variety in this production zone.

Port Zone	Geraldton	Kwinana			Albany		Esperance	Comment
		North (Midlands)	South	North (East)	North	South		
Malting varieties								
Bass (b)	NO	YES	YES	NO	Limited	Limited	NO	Stable market demand with an excellent malt quality profile
Flinders (b)	NO	NO	Niche	NO	NO	YES	Niche	Works well as a variety for post-malt blending and for sugar-adjunct brewing
La Trobe (b)	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Stable market demand with a recognised quality profile
RGT Planet (b)	NO	Limited	Niche	Niche	Limited	YES	YES	Market development for brewing end-use continuing
Scope CL (b)	NO	Niche	Niche	Niche	Niche	NO	NO	Declining production and declining market demand
Spartacus CL (b)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Market development for brewing and shochu end-use continuing



Why rationalise varieties?

In line with previous advice, the WA barley industry continues to support the long-term aim of segregating up to two major malt varieties per port zone, with limited segregations on offer for minor, new or niche malt varieties. Growing and segregating fewer malt varieties improves logistics, makes segregation planning at a bin level easier and encourages stronger demand from the trade who are unwilling to risk buying small, unsaleable parcels.

The malt barley variety receival recommendations developed by the Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA) Inc (through the GIWA Barley Council) in consultation with the WA barley supply chain are intended to be a guide for growers and consultants to help with the planning of the 2020 barley cropping program. This plan will be reviewed in autumn next year and any changes in demand presented to growers.

Barley rationalisation process

Three varieties, Banks, Leabrook and LG Alestar, are in Stage 2 of Barley Australia's accreditation process and are not included in the current 2020/21 variety receival recommendation plan. A decision on the malt accreditation of Banks is expected by the end of 2019 and for Leabrook and LG Alestar in March 2020. It is worth noting that accreditation as a malt variety does not guarantee segregation opportunities. For example, Compass barley is a recently accredited malt variety with no malt segregations in WA even though there are malt segregations in eastern Australia. Growers will be notified if market development segregations are to be offered at the 2020/21 harvest, should their accreditation be successful. Malt accreditation does not guarantee international markets will be willing to pay a premium for the variety or that there will be demand from customers in their brewing recipe.

While GIWA facilitates the publishing of industry recommendations on what malt variety to grow where, it has no control over the actual segregations provided by Bunge or CBH. Some sites can only offer a single malt barley segregation, whereas other sites may be able to offer two or more malt barley segregations. Growers can support segregation planning through submission of their area planted information and attending pre-harvest meetings.

The Australian barley industry works hard to uphold Australian malt variety quality to the end customer and does not support the co-binning of segregated malt varieties, even if the varieties concerned have similar agronomic traits. Growers should not intentionally contaminate a malt barley stack with another variety. Correct variety declaration is a legal requirement under the *Plant Breeders Rights Act*, and misdeclaration is a breach of the *Bulk Handling Act 1967*.

International market signals continue to highlight the generally low protein status of Australian malt barley. Growers are encouraged to deliver malt barley grain between 10.5-11.0% protein with a maximum of 20% screenings through a 2.5mm sieve, a hectolitre weight above 64kg/hL with ryegrass ergot less than 3cm, no whole snails and no glyphosate use near harvest.

Table 2. Market acceptance and trends in market demand of accredited malt barley varieties grown in Western Australia for 2020/21 harvest

PREFERRED	Variety is the first choice for buyers for this market segment. More likely to attract a higher malt premium than an ACCEPTABLE variety.
ACCEPTABLE	Variety purchased as an alternative to a PREFERRED variety.
Being assessed	Variety is undergoing international market development. This does not imply that there will be future market demand.
No demand	No buyer for this variety for this market segment.

Market type (market size)	Export as grain (> 500,000 t)	Export as malt (300,000 t)	Shochu (160,000 t)
Bass (b)	PREFERRED (stable)	PREFERRED (stable)	No demand
Flinders (b)	ACCEPTABLE (stable)	ACCEPTABLE (stable)	No demand
La Trobe (b)	PREFERRED (stable)	PREFERRED (stable)	PREFERRED (stable)
RGT Planet (b)	ACCEPTABLE (increasing)	Being assessed (increasing)	No demand
Scope CL (b)	ACCEPTABLE (declining)	ACCEPTABLE (declining)	No demand
Spartacus CL (b)	ACCEPTABLE (increasing)	ACCEPTABLE (increasing)	Being assessed

Note: Market size – Volumes in brackets are indicative market size only and vary considerably from year to year. They are intended to show differences in market demand and how this may influence demand for different varieties and demand by port zone.



Variety Specific Recommendations

Malt varieties are being released faster than we can retire them. The rapid release is causing headaches for our customers (just becoming familiar with a new malt variety, and there is a replacement) and for bulk handlers (as every new malt variety segregated adds to the cost of storage and handling). The GIWA barley variety rationalisation plan is trying, therefore, to balance the benefits to growers from access to new malt varieties with the demand from customers for access to large parcels of the same malt variety over at least five years.

Each malt barley variety grown in WA has unique and different malting attributes. Consequently, brewers purchase varieties subject to their availability, their price, the style of beer they produce, and the type and level of adjunct used in their brewing recipe. This document contains information outlining market demand by port zone (Table 1) and market usage and demand by industry sector (Table 2) as well as varietal-specific comments.

Growers should use market signals in this document to assist them when deciding on which malt variety or varieties to sow in 2020. Market demand, pricing signals and location of segregations should be considered in partnership with the agronomic management required and risk associated with delivering malt grade barley when determining how much area to plant to each malt variety. Varieties listed as PREFERRED are more likely to attract higher premiums than ACCEPTABLE varieties.

Accredited malt varieties

The malt barley recommendations for the 2020 season are as follows:

Bass (D)

- Bass is preferred for export as grain and as malt.
- Not suitable for the manufacture of shochu in Japan.
- Bass is well recognised in the international malt barley market with stable demand.
- Can be malted without the use of the growth hormone gibberellic acid, a market preferred trait.
- Bass malt has excellent extract and filterability and is suited to markets where high levels of starch-adjuncts are used in the brewing process.
- Grain generally has a higher grain protein concentration than other malt varieties received, enhancing its preference from starch-adjunct brewers.
- Target production zone in 2020 is Kwinana-North (Midlands) and Kwinana-South with limited segregation opportunities in the Albany Port Zone (subject to production volumes).

Flinders (D)

- Flinders is suitable for export as grain and as malt.
- Not suitable for the manufacture of shochu in Japan.
- Can be malted without the use of the growth hormone gibberellic acid, a market preferred trait.
- Flinders malt has excellent malt extract and filterability but at a lower enzyme potential than Bass malt.
- Flinders performs well in markets where sugar-adjunct brewing is undertaken and when blended post-malting with varieties like Bass and La Trobe for starch-adjunct brewing.
- Target production zone in 2020 is Albany-South with potential niche segregation opportunities in Kwinana-South and the Esperance Port Zone (subject to production and demand).

La Trobe (D)

- La Trobe is preferred for export as grain and as malt.
- La Trobe is a preferred variety for the manufacture of shochu in Japan and the only malt variety currently segregated accepted for that premium end-use.
- It is widely accepted by all major malting and brewing customers of WA barley and malt.
- La Trobe malt has high extract with a high enzyme potential and is suitable for starch-adjunct brewing.
- Growers should be careful not to contaminate their seed stocks or ruin the integrity of La Trobe malt stacks by mixing them with either Hindmarsh or Spartacus CL barley or any other variety.
- Target production zones in 2020 are Kwinana, Albany and Esperance Port Zones.

RGT Planet (D)

- RGT Planet is suitable for export as grain and as malt, but more work is required to gain full international acceptance.
- It is not being assessed for its suitability for the manufacture of shochu in Japan.
- Despite extensive use of RGT Planet in brewing markets in Europe and South America, Asian customers of Australian barley and malt are still evaluating it as they would with any new malt variety they receive. The Asian market has yet to see a critical mass of RGT Planet. The time taken to approve it, however, may be quicker than an unknown malt variety.
- Limited feedback from the international market indicates that RGT Planet malt has excellent extract with a moderate enzyme potential and is likely to be suitable for starch-adjunct brewing.
- Target production zones in 2020 are Kwinana-South, Albany-South and Esperance Port Zones with limited segregation opportunities in Kwinana-North (Midlands) and Albany-North (subject to production volumes).

Scope CL (D)

- Scope CL is suitable for export as grain and as malt.
- Not suitable for the manufacture of shochu in Japan.
- Scope CL malt has good extract with moderate enzyme activity but can suffer from variable filterability.
- While Scope CL has a better production fit than Spartacus CL with April sowing opportunities; Scope CL is in phase-out mode by growers and the trade alike.
- Use only recommended imidazolinone herbicides and be aware of market advice in regards to the delivery of grain from paddocks that have been sprayed with an imidazolinone herbicide.
- The 2020/21 harvest is the last harvest that segregations will be offered for Scope CL in WA with potential niche segregation opportunities in Kwinana and Albany-North (subject to production and demand).

Variety Specific Recommendations

Spartacus CL (b)

- Spartacus CL is suitable for export as grain and as malt, but more work is required to gain full international acceptance.
- Assessment of Spartacus CL for its suitability for the manufacture of shochu in Japan is on hold until there is a change in the import tolerances for imidazolinone residues in Japan or imidazolinone free Spartacus CL barley can be sourced.
- Large quantities of Spartacus CL was accumulated in market development stacks at the 2018/19 harvest, and countries like China are still learning how to use Spartacus CL in their malt houses and breweries.
- Market feedback suggests that like La Trobe, Spartacus CL has high extract with very good enzyme potential and is suitable for starch-adjunct brewing.
- Growers should be careful not to contaminate their seed stocks or ruin the integrity of Spartacus CL malt stacks by mixing them with either Hindmarsh or La Trobe barley or any other variety.
- Use only recommended imidazolinone herbicides and be aware of market advice in regards to the delivery of grain from paddocks that have been sprayed with an imidazolinone herbicide.
- Target production zones in 2020 are Geraldton, Kwinana, Albany and Esperance Port Zones.



Variety Specific Recommendations

Varieties undergoing malting and brewing accreditation

The list of varieties undergoing Barley Australia's malting and brewing accreditation process can be found on the Barley Australia website: barleyaustralia.com.au. Not all varieties listed have an agronomic or market fit in WA.

Varieties in Stage 0 (target accreditation date is March 2022) include:

- LG Maltstar (tested as SMBA11-1771, breeder – Limagrain Europe s.a., agent – Elders); and
- WI4952 (tested as WI4952, breeder – University of Adelaide, agent – SeedNet).

Varieties in Stage 1 (target accreditation date is March 2022) include:

- Bottler (tested as HV6, breeder – Sejet Planteforaedling I/S, agent – GrainSearch); and
- Kiwi (tested as 02035-160, breeder – Malteurop).

Varieties in Stage 1 (target accreditation date is March 2021) include:

- Buff (tested as IGB1506, breeder – AgVic Services, agent – InterGrain);
- IGB1705T (tested as IGB1705T, breeder – InterGrain); and
- Traveler (tested as Traveler, breeder – SECOBRA Recherches).

Varieties in Stage 2 (target accreditation date is March 2023) include:

- Biere (tested as GS9516-01, breeder – Syngenta Participations AG, agent – GrainSearch).

Varieties in Stage 2 (target accreditation date is March 2020) include:

- Leabrook (tested as WI4896, breeder – University of Adelaide, agent – SeedNet); and
- LG Alestar (tested as SMBA11-2341, breeder – Limagrain Europe s.a., agent – Elders).

Varieties in Stage 2 (target accreditation date is November 2019) include:

- Banks (tested as IGB1305, breeder – InterGrain).

Until a variety, however, completes Stage 2 accreditation with Barley Australia, they are not included in the current variety by port zone recommendation plan. GIWA is supportive of simultaneous international market development by the breeder alongside the malting and brewing accreditation scheme managed by Barley Australia. If that occurs the breeders or its agent may enter into a niche segregation agreement with a bulk handler to accumulate tonnage for market development purposes.

Banks (WABAR2312/WABAR2332), bred by InterGrain, was registered in February 2018. It has been sown in the WA barley NVT since 2015 and is a competitor to Bass, Flinders, La Trobe and RGT Planet in medium to higher rainfall areas of WA. WA barley NVT (2015-2018) suggests that Banks has a similar grain yield to La Trobe, is higher yielding than Bass and Flinders, but does not have the top end yield performance of RGT Planet. Across 62 WA barley NVT trials (2015-2018), Banks has yielded lower than La Trobe in 11%, the same in 79% and higher in 10%. Physical grain characteristics appear to

be comparable to La Trobe but with slightly improved plumpness, grain brightness and grain protein. Contact InterGrain if interested in purchasing seed of Banks for planting in 2020.

Leabrook (County/Commander//Commander) was bred by the now-defunct University of Adelaide barley breeding program, registered in September 2017 and is being commercialised by SeedNet. Leabrook has been sown in WA barley NVT since 2015 and is a competitor to Buff (non-acidic soils), Compass, Fathom, La Trobe and Spartacus CL (where imidazolinone herbicides have not been used) in low to medium rainfall zones. Leabrook possesses many similar attributes to Compass including phenology, plant architecture and grain quality but with improvements in grain yield and malt quality (mostly malt extract). Small plot yield data suggest that Leabrook has a slightly higher yield potential than Compass and La Trobe. Across 62 WA barley NVT trials (2016-2018), Leabrook has yielded lower than Compass in 5%, the same in 76% and higher in 19%; and relative to La Trobe, lower in 6%, the same in 74% and higher in 19%. Contact SeedNet if interested in purchasing seed of Leabrook for planting in 2020.

LG Alestar (Henley/NSL02-4136A) is a medium height, late spring, two-row barley developed by Elders through its breeding partner Edstar Genetics from a cross made by Limagrain Europe. The grain of LG Alestar has a white aleurone, even though one of its parents Henley has a blue aleurone. It was sown in WA barley NVT from 2011 until 2016 before being re-entered in 2019. It is a competitor to Bass, Flinders, Granger, La Trobe, LG Maltstar, Lockyer, Oxford and RGT Planet in higher rainfall areas of Western Australia. WA barley NVT (2012-2016) suggests that the grain yield of LG Alestar is comparable to Granger. MET analyses with more recent data are not available as it has not been sown in WA barley NVT since 2016. Across 80 WA barley NVT trials (2011-2016), LG Alestar has yielded lower than Granger in 22%, the same in 78% and higher in 0%. It has durable resistance to powdery mildew (based on the mlo gene) and resistance to barley leaf rust (seedling and adult). Contact Elders if interested in purchasing seed of LG Alestar for planting in 2020.

As with any new variety being evaluated by Barley Australia, we recommend caution in adopting them or sowing large areas to them unless there is a clear agronomic or grain yield advantage. Until a new variety has completed the malting and brewing accreditation scheme administered by Barley Australia, they should be considered as feed.

For further information about Banks and Leabrook or any of the other lines being assessed by Barley Australia talk to the relevant breeder or seed licensee to determine their agronomic characteristics, potential market fit and seed availability. It is important to note that accreditation as a malt variety by Barley Australia, does not guarantee segregation or customers domestically or internationally. Unless a new malt variety out-performs established malting varieties in both agronomic and processing capacities, the trade will be reluctant to be involved in or encourage its international promotion. Note, any variety not listed in the recommendation tables or not contracted into a niche segregation will be stored and marketed as feed.

Port Zone Recommendations

Geraldton Port Zone

Market opportunity – export as grain.

Target varieties – Spartacus CL.

Detail

Grain delivered in the Geraldton Port Zone is exported as grain.

Median barley ha (GIWA July estimates 2010–19) – 40,000 ha or 2-7% of the state's barley ha.

In 2018, the top five barley varieties in the Geraldton Port Zone accounted for 92% of the area sown to barley and were Scope CL, Spartacus CL, La Trobe, Litmus and Yagan (in decreasing popularity). Two in every three-barley ha in the port zone was either Scope CL or Spartacus CL with both as popular as each other. Litmus jumped into the top five varieties sown for the first time.

In 2019, Spartacus CL is expected to become the dominant variety sown and could occupy as much as half of the barley acreage. The acreage of La Trobe and Scope CL will continue to decline (probably by half). Litmus will remain an essential variety on soils with an acidic profile but is expected to be quickly replaced by the new white aleurone, acid-tolerant barley variety Buff (which is currently in Stage 1 malt accreditation). Yagan will be sustained where it has performed best for the last twenty years. The area sown to the feed variety may increase (albeit slowly).

Even though the area sown to barley has doubled in the last two years, the low production base still makes it difficult for the industry to recommend more than one main malt variety in this port zone. If you choose to sow an alternative malt variety to Spartacus CL, then La Trobe is the suggested alternative malt variety, but volumes need to be above 10,000 t to attract the trade (and a ship). Alternatively, grow malt varieties being segregated in the Kwinana-North (Midlands) zone and cart them to appropriate segregations in that port zone at the 2020/21 harvest.

Kwinana Port Zone

Market opportunity – export as grain, as malt and for shochu.

Target varieties – La Trobe and Spartacus CL in all areas, Bass in Kwinana-North (Midlands) and Kwinana-South, RGT Planet in Kwinana-South and possible niche segregations for Scope CL in all areas.

Detail

The bulk of the grain delivered in the Kwinana Port Zone is either converted into malt in Perth and exported as malt or shipped as grain for shochu production in Japan. Only a small proportion of the grain received is exported as grain to China and south-east Asia.

Median barley ha (GIWA July estimates 2010-19) – 455,000ha or 33-41% of the state's barley ha.

In 2018, the top five barley varieties in the Kwinana Port Zone accounted for 85% of the area sown to barley and were Spartacus CL, La Trobe, Scope CL, Bass and Litmus (in decreasing popularity). Spartacus CL accounted for one in every three-barley ha, the same as the combined area of Scope CL and La Trobe. Bass was sown on one in every twelve-barley ha with production concentrated in the Kwinana-North (Midlands) area. As with the Geraldton Port Zone, Litmus appeared in the top five varieties sown for the first time.

In 2019, it is expected that the varietal popularity ranking will change with Spartacus CL, RGT Planet, La Trobe, Scope CL and Bass occupying the bulk of the barley ha (in decreasing popularity). Spartacus CL will be the most popular variety at one in every two-barley ha.

As we move into 2020, still expect Bass and La Trobe to be relevant to the trade but Spartacus CL will continue to dominate production, and the area of RGT Planet may continue to grow, particularly in Kwinana-South. Flinders and Scope CL could be difficult to source. As the market pull for Spartacus CL is still likely to be lower than the established varieties Bass and La Trobe (due to limited market knowledge), expect pricing to favour the established varieties in the short term.

Higher Rainfall Areas (> 350 mm annual rainfall)

Due to their proximity to the malt barley market in Perth, the higher rainfall areas of the Kwinana Port Zone (Kwinana-North (Midlands) and Kwinana-South) have the highest number of malt barley variety choices available to growers. Lots of variety options pose issues in matching receival points to variety production. End-users (maltsters and grain acquirers) encourage growers to sow only those varieties used by the trade.

In 2020, while production of Bass and La Trobe is particularly encouraged there is demand for Flinders, RGT Planet and Spartacus CL. Growers with Baudin seed should talk to their preferred acquirer to determine opportunities for contract production before planting any seed. Growers thinking of growing Banks or Leabrook should await the respective accreditation decisions, seek feedback on their prospects as a malt variety and review longer-term varietal comparisons for grain yield, disease and grain quality before finalising production plans.

Lower Rainfall Areas (< 350 mm annual rainfall)

In 2020, barley sown in the lower rainfall area (Kwinana-East) will be dominated by Spartacus CL and to a lesser extent La Trobe with a growing area of Buff to replace Litmus. Production of Bass, Flinders or RGT Planet should only be considered with early sowing opportunities and for shipping to segregations in the western part of the port zone. If accredited and if market demand exists, Leabrook could fit well agronomically in non-acidic production areas in this part of the port zone.

Port Zone Recommendations

Albany Port Zone

Market opportunity – export as grain and as malt (via domestic maltsters).

Target varieties – Flinders, La Trobe, Spartacus CL and RGT Planet with limited segregations for Bass.

Detail

Grain delivered in the Albany Port Zone is primarily exported as grain. Some grain is also sent to Perth and converted into malt, before being shipped as malt.

Median barley ha (GIWA July estimates 2010-19) – 438,000ha or 33-39% of the state's barley ha.

In 2018, the top five barley varieties grown in the Albany Port Zone accounted for 79% of the area sown to barley and were La Trobe, Spartacus CL, RGT Planet, Flinders and Scope CL (in decreasing popularity). La Trobe accounted for just over one in every four-barley ha and Spartacus CL a little over one in every five-barley ha.

In 2019, Spartacus CL is expected to be the most popular variety closely followed by RGT Planet. Between them they will occupy two of every three barley ha, leaving La Trobe, Flinders and Scope CL as the next most widely grown varieties (in decreasing popularity).

As we move into 2020, expect the decline of Bass, Flinders and La Trobe to continue and for RGT Planet and Spartacus CL to dominate. The production of Banks (if accredited) will be limited by seed availability. Rosalind is also likely to play an essential role in many farms.

Non-Coastal Northern Area

Grain produced in the non-coastal part of the Albany Port Zone is primarily exported as grain to international customers. In years where there is a shortage of quality malt barley in the Kwinana Port Zone, some of the grain received in the northern part of the port is delivered to Perth for malting. This is then shipped as malt.

Production of Bass is encouraged (where economic) but the main varieties will be La Trobe and Spartacus CL. RGT Planet has the option of being trucked to segregations in Kwinana-South or going to Albany-South. Banks and Leabrook may be considerations for this region subject to their accreditation and appropriate market signals.

Coastal Southern Area

Grain produced in the coastal part of the Albany Port Zone is exported as grain to international customers and not used domestically. As the production risk from leaf diseases is high, growers are looking at Flinders, Rosalind, LG Maltstar and RGT Planet as potential options to grow.

Market demand exists for Flinders, La Trobe, RGT Planet, and Spartacus CL with limited segregation opportunities for Bass. Banks may be worth considering for this region subject to being accredited and appropriate market signals.

Esperance Port Zone

Market opportunity – export as grain.

Target varieties – La Trobe, RGT Planet and Spartacus CL and niche opportunities for Flinders.

Detail

Grain delivered in the Esperance Port Zone is exported as grain.

Median barley ha (GIWA July estimates 2010-19) – 287,000ha or 19-25% of the state's barley ha.

In 2018, the top five barley varieties in the Esperance Port Zone accounted for 72% of the area sown to barley and were La Trobe, Spartacus CL, RGT Planet, Baudin and Flinders (in decreasing popularity). La Trobe's area was similar to the combined area of Spartacus CL, RGT Planet, Baudin and Flinders.

In 2019, Spartacus CL, RGT Planet, La Trobe and Flinders (in decreasing popularity) are expected to dominate production by being sown on four out of every five barley ha. Spartacus CL and RGT Planet will be the most popular.

As we move into 2020, expect the area sown to RGT Planet to continue to surge with a continued switch out of La Trobe for Spartacus CL (even in areas where imidazolinone herbicide is not currently required or used), the introduction of Banks (if it becomes accredited) and the dropping of Flinders. Rosalind will play a part where a shorter season feed is required.





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