GIWA BARLEY COUNCIL

24 August 2021

Western Australian Malt Barley Variety Receival Recommendations for the 2022/23 Harvest

Summary 2022/23 Harvest

The following observations are relevant:

- Barley is still popular among growers. The area sown to barley in WA in 2021 is on par with that in 2018 and 2020, which is 37% higher than the average area sown from 2010 to 2017 (source: GIWA Crop Report). The popularity of barley in the rotation is expected to remain in 2022.
- Trade flows for barley have changed since tariffs imposed by China on the imports of Australian barley came into effect in May 2020. Australian malt barley sales are down, leading to an over-supply of malt barley available to exporters, both in WA and nationally. While new brewing customers enjoy the value and quality of Australian malt barley, the volumes of barley for malting and brewing sold to new customers have not replaced the previous Chinese demand.
- Feed barley sales, on the other hand, are up. The substitution of export sales for malting to sales for stock feed has dampened premiums offered for malt barley favouring a grower focus on yield and not quality.
- The scenario of a weak market for malt barley and strong demand for feed barley, notwithstanding any changes to China's current stance, will likely continue for another couple of years. However, the supply of high-quality malt barley is still required to meet the demand from remaining and new export customers of our malt barley and the strong domestic market demand for malt barley.
- The Boortmalt and Barrett Burston malthouses in Perth are the largest customers of WA malt barley grain. They procure 360,000 tonne of malt barley grain annually from growers in the Kwinana and parts of the Albany Port Zones.

Table 1. Western Australian malt barley variety segregation recommendations by Port Zone for the 2022/23 harvest

YES	This is a recommended variety for this production zone. Segregations will be preferentially allocated to this variety.
Limited	Limited segregations are 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 is only available if a marketer has sufficient tonnage to supply domestic or international customers. Marketers should contact CBH to negotiate niche segregation, and growers should contact their preferred marketer to determine 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**	Limited	Limited	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	Strong demand for domestic processing and exporting as malt.
Flinders (b)	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	Limited	Limited	Works well as a variety for post-malt blending and sugar-adjunct brewing
La Trobe (b)	**NO**	Niche	Niche	Niche	Niche	Niche	Niche	Declining market demand with a recognised quality profile.
Maximus CL (b)	**NO**	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	International markets have had limited opportunities to evaluate.
RGT Planet (b)	**NO**	**YES**	**YES**	**NO**	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**	Strong market pull due to its global availability.
Spartacus CL (b)	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**	Large volumes are available to the market.

GIWA Grain Industry Association of Western Australia

Summary 2022/23 Harvest (cont.)

- Grower production of Bass, Flinders and La Trobe is declining.
- Bass and Flinders are both, however, considered as significant varieties for malting and brewing end-use in south-east Asia and Japan as they can be malted without the use of additives and are well-known by the market. However, should market demand not result in an attractive malt premium over the subsequent two harvests, the decline in production of Bass and Flinders will increase in pace.
- La Trobe has been the preferred variety for the manufacture of shochu in Japan for the last five years. Spartacus CL is now an approved variety for shochu manufacture following the lifting of Japan's maximum residue limit (MRL) for imazapyr from 0.01 to 0.7 ppm in early 2021. As previously indicated in the 2021/22 recommendations, La Trobe will no longer be a segregated variety after the 2022/23 harvest.
- Spartacus CL and RGT Planet dominate the production area sown to barley in WA. There is a continued demand for RGT Planet from global malting and brewing customers who accredited the variety from European sourced production. Spartacus CL, while popular with the Australian brewing industry, does not have the same level of international market recognition. International sales of Spartacus CL for malting and brewing include regional Asian beer brands and brewing opportunities in central and southern America (Mexico, Ecuador, and Peru).
- Three new varieties, Leabrook, LG Alestar and Maximus CL, were accredited in March 2021 by Barley Australia as being suitable for malting and brewing. Of these three varieties, only Maximus CL will be segregated in WA at the 2022/23 harvest of those three varieties. The area sown to Maximus CL will start increasing in 2022 at the expense of Spartacus CL. During this transition, market development will be critical to securing Maximus CL as a preferred variety.
- Segregation opportunities for Bass, Flinders, La Trobe, Maximus CL, RGT Planet, and Spartacus CL vary by port zone across WA and within a port zone for the Kwinana and Albany Ports (Table 1).

Introduction

Why rationalise varieties?

In line with previous advice, the WA barley industry supports 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. Segregating fewer malt varieties improves logistics (reducing storage and handling costs), makes segregation planning at a bin level easier and encourages more robust demand from the trade who are unwilling to risk buying small, unsaleable parcels.

The Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA) Inc (through the GIWA Barley Council) developed these recommendations in consultation with the WA barley supply chain. Their purpose is to guide growers and consultants when planning the 2022 barley cropping program. A review of the plan will occur in autumn 2022, and any changes in demand will be presented to growers. This document's malt variety recommendations may differ from eastern Australia due to WA's focus on international markets.

Barley rationalisation process

Four varieties in Stage Two of Barley Australia's accreditation process, Bottler, Buff, Kiwi and Laperouse, are not included in the 2022/23 variety receival recommendation plan. Of those four varieties, Buff and Laperouse are the varieties of greatest interest to WA barley growers. Expect a decision on the malt accreditation of Bottler, Buff and Kiwi in March 2022 and for Laperouse in March 2023 (held up due to delays in satisfying the requirements for Stage One).

It is worth noting that malt accreditation does not guarantee segregation opportunities. While Leabrook and LG Alestar are newly accredited varieties, the industry has indicated they will not be segregated in WA (but may be in eastern Australia) at the 2022/23 harvest. Like Compass, the malt characteristics of Leabrook are less suitable for the export malt markets serviced from WA, and there is currently no customer demand. The malt characteristic of LG Alestar may be of interest to some international brewing customers, but like Leabrook, there has been no customer development.

Malt accreditation does not guarantee that international markets will be willing to pay a premium for the variety or that there will be demand from customers in their brewing recipes. Malt accreditation also does not imply the agronomic suitability of a variety to different growing environments in WA.

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

Lyndon Mickel, Beaumont grower and Chair GIWA Barley Council

The Australian barley industry works hard to uphold Australian malt variety quality to the end customer. It 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 breaches the Bulk Handling Act 1967. Growers should be careful not to contaminate their seed stocks by mixing varieties that look similar, i.e. La Trobe, Maximus CL or Spartacus CL, or mix them with any other variety.

International market signals continue to highlight the generally low protein status of Australian malt barley. When delivering malt barley grain, growers should target malt barley grain between 10.3-10.8% protein for domestic sales and 10.5-11.0% for export sales (even though the receival window is 9.5-12.8%) with a minimum of 80% retention on a 2.5 mm sieve, a hectolitre weight above 64 kg/hL with ryegrass ergot less than 3cm, no whole snails and no glyphosate use near harvest.

Variety Specific Recommendations

With new malt varieties released and adopted by growers faster than the phasing out of old malt varieties, the rapid turnover of varieties is a common sticking point for end-users who desire long-term supply and familiarity to optimise their end-use. New varieties also create in-efficiency for bulk handlers, with each further malt segregation adding to the cost of storage and handling. Therefore, the GIWA barley variety rationalisation plan attempts 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 malting attributes. Consequently, brewers purchase varieties subject to their availability, familiarity, price, style of beer they produce, and the type and level of adjunct used in their brewing recipe. This document contains information outlining proposed segregation opportunities by port zone (Table 1) and market usage and demand by industry sector (Table 2), as well as varietal-specific comments.

Growers should use the market signals in this document to help them decide on which malt variety or varieties to sow in 2022. In determining malt variety choice, market demand, pricing signals, and segregation locations should be considered alongside the agronomic management required and the risk associated with delivering malt grade barley. Varieties listed as PREFERRED are more likely to attract higher premiums than ACCEPTABLE varieties. As these industry recommendations are a guide, the actual segregations implemented at the 2022/23 harvest may differ from those proposed in this document. Growers should regularly liaise with their bulk handlers to confirm segregations.

Table 2. Market acceptance and trends in market demand of accredited malt barley varieties grown in Western Australia for 2022/23 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 (> 100,000 t)	Export as malt (300,000 t)	Shochu (160,000 t)
Bass (b)	ACCEPTABLE (declining)	**PREFERRED (stable)**	No demand
Flinders (b)	ACCEPTABLE (declining)	**PREFERRED (stable)**	No demand
La Trobe (b)	ACCEPTABLE (declining)	**PREFERRED (declining)**	No demand
Maximus CL (b)	Being assessed	Being assessed	Being assessed
RGT Planet (b)	**PREFERRED (increasing)**	**PREFERRED (increasing)**	No demand
Spartacus CL (b)	ACCEPTABLE (stable)	ACCEPTABLE (stable)	ACCEPTABLE (increasing)

Note: Market size – Volumes in brackets are indicative market size only and vary considerably from year to year. Volumes show differences in market demand across each market sector and influence malt variety choice across port zones. Due to the tariff's recently imposed on Australian barley imports into China, the market size for export as grain has reduced from > 500,000 t to > 100,000 t.

Variety Specific Recommendations

Accredited malt varieties

The malt barley recommendations for the 2022 season are as follows:

Bass

- Bass is the 'market leader' for malt quality, with strong demand for domestic processing and exporting as malt. It is acceptable for export as grain.
- Not suitable for the manufacture of shochu in Japan.
- Bass is well recognised in the international malt barley market with stable demand. Until there is a replacement, Bass is a critical malt variety to maintain our ability to supply premium malt to key customers.
- Suitable for additive-free malting, a growing sector of the international malt market.
- Frequently used when blending malt to customer specifications.
- Bass malt has excellent extract, and filterability and its quality profile matches market needs from brewers using high levels of starch-adjuncts. Bass grain generally has a higher grain protein concentration than other malt varieties received, enhancing its preference from starch-adjunct brewers.
- Bass, like Flinders, has a higher selection rate for malt than La Trobe, RGT Planet and Spartacus CL but is now out-classed for grain yield.
- The value that Bass brings to maltsters and brewers should be reflected in market pricing, otherwise, future volumes will not match demand.
- Target production zones in 2022 are Kwinana-North (Midlands) and Kwinana-South. Limited segregation opportunities will be offered due to declining production.

Flinders

- Flinders is acceptable for export as grain and preferred for export as malt.
- Not suitable for the manufacture of shochu in Japan.
- Suitable for additive-free malting, a growing sector of the international malt market.
- Frequently used when blending malt to customer specifications.
- 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 practiced and when blended post-malting for starch-adjunct brewing markets.
- Flinders, like Bass, has a higher selection rate for malt than La Trobe, RGT Planet and Spartacus CL but is now out-classed for grain yield.
- The value that Flinders brings to maltsters and brewers should be reflected in market pricing, otherwise, future volumes will not match demand.
- Target production zones in 2022 are Albany-South and Esperance. Limited segregation opportunities will be offered due to declining production.

La Trobe

- La Trobe is acceptable for export as grain and as malt and is suitable for the manufacture of shochu in Japan.
- There is declining customer demand for La Trobe.
- La Trobe malt has a high extract with a high enzyme potential and is suitable for starch-adjunct brewing.
- Due to reducing production volumes, niche segregations will be offered in Kwinana, Albany, and Esperance Port Zones. The 2022/23 harvest marks the last harvest that La Trobe will be segregated in WA.

Maximus CL

- Maximus CL is being assessed for export as grain and as malt and for the manufacture of shochu in Japan.
- Maximus CL malt has a high extract with a high enzyme potential and is suitable for starch-adjunct brewing.
- Grower production will exceed market demand at the 2022/23 harvest. Due to limited market development opportunities to date, growers should expect restricted malt-premiums offered.
- The industry is expecting Maximus CL will replace Spartacus CL on-farm.
- Use recommended imidazolinone herbicides, and be aware of market advice regarding delivering grain from paddocks sprayed with an imidazolinone herbicide.
- Target production zones in 2022 are Kwinana, Albany and Esperance Port Zones. Limited segregation opportunities will be offered as the variety is new, and there is currently minimal customer demand.

RGT Planet

- RGT Planet is preferred for export as grain and as malt.
- Not suitable for the manufacture of shochu in Japan.
- RGT Planet is a globally recognised malt variety used extensively in European and South American brewing markets and is gaining acceptance in south-east Asian brewing markets.
- RGT Planet malt has excellent extract with a moderate enzyme potential and is suitable for sugar- and starch-adjunct brewing.
- Target production zones in 2022 are Kwinana-North (Midlands), Kwinana-South, Albany, and Esperance Port Zones.

Spartacus CL

- Spartacus CL is acceptable for export as grain and malt and is suitable for manufacturing shochu in Japan.
- Spartacus CL malt has a high extract with very good enzyme potential and is suitable for starch-adjunct brewing but not preferred by all our brewing customers.
- Use recommended imidazolinone herbicides, and be aware of market advice regarding delivering grain from paddocks sprayed with an imidazolinone herbicide.
- Target production zones in 2022 are Geraldton, Kwinana, Albany, and Esperance Port Zones.

Variety Specific Recommendations

Varieties undergoing malting and brewing accreditation

The Barley Australia website: **barleyaustralia.com.au** lists varieties undergoing Barley Australia's malting and brewing accreditation process. Not all varieties listed have an agronomic or market fit in WA.

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

- AGTB0201 (tested as AGTB0201, breeder – AGT),
- Beast (tested as AGTB0113, breeder – AGT),
- Commodus CL (tested as IGB1908T, breeder – InterGrain),
- Cyclops (tested as AGTB0200, breeder – AGT),
- IGB1825 (tested as IGB1825, breeder – InterGrain),
- Minotaur (tested as AGTB0213, breeder – AGT), and
- Yeti (tested as AGTB0043, breeder – AGT).

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

- Laperouse (tested as WI4952, breeder – University of Adelaide, agent – SECOBRA Recherches through SeedNet).

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

- Bottler (tested as HV6, breeder – Sejet Planteforaedling I/S, agent – PGG Wrightson),
- Buff (tested as IGB1506, breeder – AgVic Services, agent – InterGrain), and
- Kiwi (tested as 02035-160, breeder – Malteurop).

Entry into the Barley Australia accreditation system does not guarantee varietal accreditation for malting and brewing, nor does it guarantee acceptance by international customers of our grain and malt. GIWA recommends caution in adopting a variety under accreditation or sowing large areas to them with the expectation of future segregations unless there is a clear agronomic or grain yield advantage of planting them as a feed-only barley.

For further information about any varieties under Barley Australia assessment, 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. 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 2012-2021) – 40,000 ha or 3% of the state's barley ha.

There was a sharp increase in barley acreage in 2018 (110,000 ha) and 2019 (120,000 ha). Production returned to normal in 2020 (30,000 ha) before jumping again in 2021 (100,000 ha).

In 2020, the top five barley varieties in the Geraldton Port Zone accounted for 95% of the area sown to barley. They were Spartacus CL, Scope CL, Rosalind, Litmus, and Buff (in decreasing popularity). Three in every four-barley ha in the port zone was either Spartacus CL or Scope CL, with Spartacus CL five times more prevalent than Scope CL. The acid-tolerant varieties, Buff and Litmus, each occupied 5% of the barley area in the port zone.

In 2021, Spartacus CL remains the dominant variety sown, with Scope CL in decline and being replaced by Buff and Rosalind. Yagan continues to be planted where it has performed best for the last twenty years.

The low production base in this port zone makes it difficult for the industry to recommend more than one main malt variety in this port zone. There is no malt alternative to Spartacus CL grown in sufficient volumes in the Geraldton Port Zone to justify additional varietal segregations. Maximus CL is a potential future alternative to Spartacus CL. Barley Australia accreditation of Buff might result in an opportunity for growers to supply that variety to Perth processors or export customers if a regular supply of malt grade barley is delivered.

The new varieties, Beast, Cyclops and Commodus CL, will likely be of agronomic interest to growers in the Geraldton Port Zone, with the potential role of Minotaur yet to be determined. If accredited by Barley Australia, market fit and production volumes will decide future segregation opportunities. 2022 will be a bulk up year on-farm for those varieties.

Kwinana Port Zone

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

Target varieties – RGT Planet and Spartacus CL with limited segregations for Bass in Kwinana-North (Midlands) and Kwinana-South, limited segregations for Maximus CL in all areas, and niche segregations for La Trobe in all regions (subject to production and demand).

Detail

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

Median barley ha (GIWA July estimates 2012-2021) – 498,500 ha or 39% of the state's barley ha.

In 2020, the top five barley varieties in the Kwinana Port Zone accounted for 85% of the area sown to barley and were Spartacus CL, RGT Planet, Scope CL, Buff, and La Trobe (in decreasing popularity). Spartacus CL accounted for three in every five-barley ha, five times that sown to RGT Planet. The big mover was Buff, moving into the top five and accounting for 5% of the planted area. The area sown to La Trobe and Scope CL halved while Bass dropped slightly. Bass was mainly cultivated in the Kwinana-North (Midlands) area.

In 2021, Spartacus CL and RGT Planet continue to be dominant, with Spartacus CL still the most widely sown variety.

As we move into 2022, Bass is still highly relevant to the trade. The dominance of Spartacus CL, the growth of RGT Planet, particularly in Kwinana-South, and the emergence of Maximus CL limit segregation opportunities for Bass. The malt quality value that Bass offers to the market should be reflected in a substantial premium for Bass from domestic processors seeking established, market preferred varieties in the short term. However, the premium for Bass over feed offered at the 2020/21 harvest was not enough to cover its lower yield potential. Luckily Bass has one the highest selections rates in WA, which offsets some of its lower yield potential but not all.

Four new varieties on the horizon could fit the Kwinana Port Zone; Beast, Commodus CL, Cyclops and Minotaur. All are undergoing Barley Australia accreditation. Small plot variety trials managed by the GRDC suggest some yield or agronomic advantages. Those four varieties will get their first outing on farms across WA in 2022. If their on-farm performance matches the results achieved in small plot trials, along with potential accreditation by Barley Australia, a shakeup in the varietal mix could begin in 2023.

Higher Rainfall Areas (> 350 mm annual rainfall)

Due to 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 segregation choices available to growers. Many 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 2022, while production of Bass is particularly encouraged, there is demand for RGT Planet and Spartacus CL. Growers with Baudin and Flinders seed should talk to their preferred acquirer to determine opportunities for contract production before planting any seed. Maximus CL will likely become a prominent variety in 2022, but until international markets become familiar with the malting and brewing profile of the variety, grower production will exceed market demand.

Port Zone Recommendations

Lower Rainfall Areas (< 350 mm annual rainfall)

In 2022, barley sown in the lower rainfall area, Kwinana-North (East), will be dominated by Spartacus CL with a growing interest in Buff (undergoing malt accreditation) and the feed variety Rosalind. Production of Bass, Flinders or RGT Planet should only be considered with early sowing opportunities and shipping to segregations in the western part of the port zone. Maximus CL could fit well agronomically in non-acidic production areas in this part of the port zone as an alternative to or replacement for Spartacus CL.

Albany Port Zone

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

Target varieties – RGT Planet and Spartacus CL, with limited segregations for Flinders (Albany-South) and Maximus CL, and niche segregations for La Trobe.

Detail

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

Median barley ha (GIWA July estimates 2012-2021) – 464,000 ha or 36% of the state's barley ha.

In 2020, the top five barley varieties grown in the Albany Port Zone accounted for 91% of the area sown to barley. They were Spartacus CL, RGT Planet, La Trobe, Rosalind, and Flinders (in decreasing popularity). Spartacus CL accounted for just over two in every five-barley ha and RGT Planet just over one in every three-barley ha. The popularity of RGT Planet and Spartacus CL grew at the expense of other varieties except for Rosalind, which remained static as a per cent of the cropped area.

In 2021, Spartacus CL continues as the most popular variety, closely followed by RGT Planet. Between them, they will occupy over three of every four-barley ha. The reduced production of Flinders is limiting segregations. Bass volumes are too small to justify segregation, and there is declining production of La Trobe.

As we move into 2022, expect the production decline of Flinders and La Trobe to continue to limit segregation opportunities. RGT Planet and Spartacus CL will continue to dominate until Maximus CL demand and production ramps up, and it moves into the area currently sown to Spartacus CL. Rosalind will play an essential role on many farms.

The new varieties, Cyclops and Minotaur, will likely interest growers in medium to higher rainfall areas, while Beast and Commodus CL will be of greater interest in low to medium rainfall areas of the Albany Port Zone.

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 Flinders is encouraged (where economic), but the main varieties will be RGT Planet and Spartacus CL. Flinders has the option of being trucked to segregations at MGC or delivered to receival points in Albany-South. Maximus CL looks a good fit to replace Spartacus CL.

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, and RGT Planet as potential options.

Market demand exists for RGT Planet and Spartacus CL with limited segregation opportunities for Flinders and Maximus CL and niche segregations for La Trobe.

Esperance Port Zone

Market opportunity – export as grain.

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

Detail

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

Median barley ha (GIWA July estimates 2012-2021) – 289,000 ha or 22% of the state's barley ha.

In 2020, the top five barley varieties in the Esperance Port Zone accounted for 91% of the area sown to barley. They were Spartacus CL, RGT Planet, La Trobe, Rosalind, and Flinders (in decreasing popularity). Combined, RGT Planet, La Trobe and Spartacus were sown on three in every four-barley ha, with Spartacus CL pipping RGT Planet for the most popular variety.

In 2021, the La Trobe area has declined further, increasing the proportion of the barley area sown to RGT Planet, Rosalind, Flinders, and Maximus CL (in decreasing popularity).

As we move into 2022, expect the area sown to RGT Planet to continue to grow. The switch out of La Trobe for Spartacus CL (even in areas where imidazolinone herbicide is not currently required or used) will continue, or there will be a switch to Maximus CL. Flinders may fill gaps where RGT Planet is not performing. Rosalind will play a part where a shorter season feed variety is needed.

As with the other port zones, Beast, Commodus CL, Cyclops, and Minotaur will start on-farm assessment against the current variety selection during 2022. Successful on-farm production combined with potential Barley Australia accreditation will likely influence the variety mix sown in 2023.

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