



NEWS RELEASE

Barley Varieties
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NORTH DAKOTA'S TOP THREE BARLEY VARIETIES REMAIN THE SAME

The top three barley varieties in North Dakota for 2003 remain the same as 2002, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Robust tops the list as the number one planted barley variety in North Dakota for 2003. This year was the 18th out of the last 19 years that Robust was the number one barley variety. Lacey remains in second place this year, followed by Conlon, which stayed in third. Legacy captured fourth place in 2003. These four barley varieties accounted for 89.1 percent of the planted acres and were again recommended by the American Malting Barley Association (AMBA) for malting and brewing in 2003.

Haybet, Stark, and Bowman were the top feed varieties, and ranked fifth, eighth, and ninth overall, respectively. Together, they comprised 3.4 percent of all barley acres in North Dakota. Stander dropped to a tenth place ranking.

North Dakota continued to rank first in barley planted acreage in the United States, with 38.5 percent of the nation's total. Planted acres in North Dakota were 2.1 million in 2003, up from 1.6 million in 2002. In 2003, there were 5.46 million planted acres in the United States compared to 5.07 million in 2002.

Data in this report is based on results of a June survey conducted by USDA's North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service of over 900 barley producers. The AMBA and the North Dakota Barley Council provided supporting funds for the survey.

Robust continued to be planted to the largest number of acres of any other barley variety. In 2003, this popular variety lead by a substantial margin (almost 40 percentage points) over all other varieties. It accounted for 55.3 percent of the total barley acres planted in North Dakota.

Lacey remained solidly in second place in 2003. It was planted on 15.5 percent of the total barley acres, a gain over its 13.2 percent in 2002. It made a strong showing in five eastern districts. Similar to Robust, this six-row barley is characterized by its medium height, strong straw strength, and medium relative maturity.

Conlon maintained its third place position on the list in 2003. This ranking represents 11.8 percent of the total barley acres planted. It was the leading barley variety planted in the southwest district and made a strong showing in two others.

Haybet was the most popular feed variety in 2003, fifth overall. About 43,000 acres were planted this year, mostly in the west central and south west districts.

Stark moved back to the second most popular feed barley variety and ranked eighth overall. Just over 16,000 acres were planted this year.

Bowman was the third most popular feed variety in 2003, ninth overall. Just over 12,000 acres were planted this year.

For More Information Contact: