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# MONTANA 2025 BARLEY VARIETIES

## HIGHLIGHTS

This report provides the results of the barley portion of the 2025 Wheat and Barley Variety Survey, conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Mountain Regional Office, USDA. The survey was funded by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. Access to this report is available for free or online at www.nass.usda.gov/mt. Thank you to each person who supplied data and made this report possible.

All variety acreage numbers in this publication are based on survey averages. Survey respondents totaled 1,904 with 1,616 usable reports for both wheat and barley. Usable, positive barley reports totaled 666. At the district level, the number of reports for minor varieties is generally limited. Thus, yearly fluctuations in the district variety acreage may be the result of sample variation.

Total area seeded to barley in Montana for 2025 is estimated at 760,000 acres, down from 900,000 acres planted in 2024. Montana continues to rank first in barley planted acreage in the United States, with 31.5 percent of the 2.42 million acres planted. Malting varieties account for 60.1 percent of planted acres in Montana. Feed varieties totaled 15.0 percent and forage varieties totaled 15.1 percent. Varieties reported in the other and unknown categories totaled 9.8 percent of planted acres.

AC Metcalfe remains the leading barley variety in Montana for 2025, accounting for 17.5 percent of the 760,000 acres planted in 2025. Bill Coors 100 ranks second with 9.5 percent of the barley acreage. Conlon represents 9.1 percent of the barley planted and ranks third. Hockett ranks fourth with 7.1 percent of barley planted. AAC Synergy accounts for 6.8 percent of the barley acres and ranks fifth. These top five varieties account for 50.0 percent of the barley planted in 2025.

## TOP MALTING VARIETIES

**AC Metcalfe** is once again the leading malting barley variety in Montana for 2025, representing 17.5 percent of all acres seeded, as noted above. It is a two-row malting barley developed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, located in Brandon, Manitoba. It is resistant to loose smut and is moderately resistant to the spot-form of net blotch, surface-borne smuts, and common root rot. It has plump kernels and high test weight, but it is susceptible to scald and Septoria.

**Bill Coors 100** ranked second among malting barley varieties seeded for 2025, planted on 9.5 percent of the total acres. Bill Coors 100 is well suited for irrigation. It has a short straw length, with high yield and early maturity. It is a two-row variety leaving minimal stubble and residue.

**Conlon** is the third leading malting barley variety seeded for the 2025 crop year. An estimated 9.1 percent of all barley is planted to this variety. Conlon is a two rowed variety with large, plump kernels. It was developed at the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. It has high test weight, medium straw length, and mid-season maturity. It is resistant to net blotch, the MCC form of stem rust, and powdery mildew.

**Hockett** is the fourth leading malting barley variety in 2025, planted on 7.1 percent of the total barley acres. Hockett is a two-rowed dry land variety that was developed by Montana State University (MSU) in 2008. When compared to Harrington, Hockett has a higher yield and better malt quality given dry land conditions. It is susceptible to lodging and stripe rust.

**AAC Synergy** ranked fifth among malting barley varieties seeded for the 2025 crop year. An estimated 6.8 percent of all barley is planted to this variety. It is a two-row malting barley and is adapted to growing in regions of the northern plains. It has great yield potential, and a favorable quality profile for the malt market.

**Montana Top 5 Malting Barley Varieties**

| Variety | Percent of Acres Planted |
|---|---|
| AC Metcalfe | 17.5 |
| Bill Coors 100 | 9.5 |
| Conlon | 9.1 |
| Hockett | 7.1 |
| AAC Synergy | 6.8 |

## TOP FORAGE VARIETIES

**Haybet** is the top forage variety planted in 2025 with 4.7 percent of the total barley acres planted. It was developed cooperatively by the Agricultural Research Service, USDA, and MSU in 1989. It is a two-rowed, hooded, white-kernel spring hay barley. Compared to Horsford hay barley, Haybet is 3 days later in heading and similar in plant height and percent lodging. Haybet is higher in hay yield than Horsford, but they are similar in grain yield.

**Lavina** is the second rated forage barley variety planted by Montana farmers, accounting for 4.7 percent of the total barley acres seeded in 2025. It is a two-rowed, hooded hay barley developed by MSU, and is a cross between Haybet and Baronesse varieties. Lavina was released as a replacement for Haybet with the attributes of slightly higher forage production potential, and much higher grain production potential.

**Haymaker** once again ranks third among all forage barley acres planted for 2025, with 3.2 percent of all barley planted to this variety. Haymaker is a two-row forage barley exhibiting high yields with excellent feed quality. Because of its height, it is great for baling and silage.

**Redrock** ranks fourth among forage varieties, at 1.1 percent of total planted acres in Montana for 2025. Redrock is an excellent forage variety. It is a two-row hooded variety with high yield and has great standability when irrigated.

**Stockford** ranks fifth among forage barley acres planted, with 0.4 percent of all barley planted acres. Stockford is a two-row hooded hay barley. It is medium tall and matures mid-season. It was developed by WestBred and is adapted to the intermountain area of the Pacific Northwest and western areas of Canada.

| Montana Top 5 Forage Barley Varieties | |
|---|---|
| Variety | Percent of Acres Planted |
| Haybet | 4.7 |
| Lavina | 4.7 |
| Haymaker | 3.2 |
| Redrock | 1.1 |
| Stockford | 0.4 |

## TOP FEED VARIETIES

**Haxby** is again the leading feed barley variety planted in 2025, representing 6.1 percent of all barley acreage. Haxby is a two-rowed barley developed by MSU. Yields are equal to Baronesse and Eslick and are higher than Gallatin and Valier varieties. It is medium in height and maturity and has superior performance in low moisture conditions. Haxby has high test weights in both dry land and irrigated areas.

**Champion** is the second leading Montana feed barley variety in 2025 accounting for 2.8 percent of the planted barley acres. Champion was developed by WestBred LLC, Bozeman, Montana in 1997. It is a cross between Baronesse and Camas. It is a two-row spring barley that has a semi-erect to intermediate growth habit. Champion has fair to good resistance to lodging and shattering. It also shows strengths to neck breaking and drought.

**Claymore** ranked third for feed varieties planted in 2025 with 2.4 percent of all barley acres seeded. It is a two-row, bearded barley with high-test weight, medium height, excellent yield, superior straw strength, excellent standability, and Fusarium head blight tolerance.

**Altorado** ranks fourth among feed varieties, at 1.0 percent of total planted acres. Also developed by WestBred LLC, Bozeman, Montana, Altorado is a two-row variety with medium maturity, short height, and excellent yield potential on irrigated or dryland acres.

**CDC Austenson** is the fifth leading feed barley variety planted by Montana producers in 2025, accounting for 0.5 percent of the total barley acres planted. Developed by the Crop Development Center at the University of Saskatchewan, CDC Austenson is a two-row variety with strong straw strength, high test weight, and high yield potential.

| Montana Top 5 Feed Barley Varieties | |
|---|---|
| Variety | Percent of Acres Planted |
| Haxby | 6.1 |
| Champion | 2.8 |
| Claymore | 2.4 |
| Altorado | 1.0 |
| CDC Austenson | 0.5 |

# Montana Agricultural Statistics Districts


## Barley: Reported Percent Planted by District and Variety – Montana: 2025

| Variety [1] | District 10 Northwest | District 20 North Central | District 30 Northeast | District 50 Central | District 70 Southwest | District 80 South Central | District 90 Southeast | State Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| AC Metcalfe | -- | 24.7 | -- | 18.2 | -- | -- | -- | 17.5 |
| Bill Coors 100 | -- | 6.7 | -- | 8.8 | -- | 4.9 | -- | 9.5 |
| Conlon | -- | 13.4 | -- | 7.2 | -- | -- | -- | 9.1 |
| Hockett | -- | 10.1 | -- | 7.1 | -- | -- | -- | 7.1 |
| AAC Synergy | -- | 4.8 | -- | 14.3 | 14.6 | 17.5 | -- | 6.8 |
| Haxby | 21.3 | 6.1 | 13.1 | 5.9 | -- | -- | -- | 6.1 |
| Haybet | 10.0 | 1.3 | 20.3 | 3.0 | -- | 1.9 | 26.9 | 4.7 |
| Lavina | 13.8 | 2.1 | 20.4 | 4.0 | -- | 2.7 | 5.0 | 4.7 |
| Haymaker | -- | 2.1 | 9.7 | 4.5 | -- | -- | 5.3 | 3.2 |
| Champion | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2.8 |
| Moravian 165 | -- | 4.3 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2.7 |
| Mayflower | -- | 4.5 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2.6 |
| Claymore | -- | 1.6 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2.4 |
| ABI Voyager | -- | 1.1 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1.2 |
| Redrock | -- | 0.8 | -- | 2.3 | -- | -- | 8.6 | 1.1 |
| ABI Eagle | -- | 1.2 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1.1 |
| Altorado | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1.0 |
| CDC Austenson | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 0.5 |
| Baronesse | -- | 0.5 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 0.5 |
| Expedition | -- | 0.7 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 0.5 |
| Explorer | -- | -- | -- | -- | 14.8 | -- | -- | 0.4 |
| CDC Fraser | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 0.4 |
| Stockford | -- | -- | -- | -- | 6.0 | -- | -- | 0.4 |
| Buzz | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 0.3 |
| Esma | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 0.3 |
| MT Cowgirl | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 0.3 |
| LCS Genie | -- | 0.4 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 0.3 |
| Bestford | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 0.2 |
| Vaquero | -- | -- | -- | 0.7 | -- | -- | -- | 0.1 |
| Hector | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 0.1 |
| Westford | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 0.1 |
| Other, Unknown [2] | 54.9 | 13.6 | 36.5 | 24.0 | 64.6 | 73.0 | 54.2 | 12.0 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(--) No data, minor amount of data reported, or withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

[1)] AAC=Agriculture and Agri-foods Canada, ABI=Bush Agricultural Resources, AC=Agri-foods Canada, CDC=Crop Development Center, University of Saskatchewan, LCS=Limagrain Cereal Seeds, MT=Montana State University.

[2)] Other includes ABI Raptor, Arabian, CDC Churchill, CDC Cowboy, CDC Maverick, Carleton, Bowman, Hayes, Horsford, LCS Odyssey, Legacy, Logan, MT Boy Howdy, MT Endurance, ND Genesis, Stark, Trophy, Valier, Vespa, and unknown varieties.

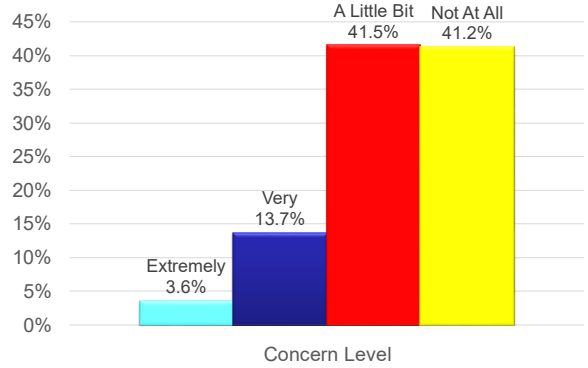
## CONSUMER GLUTEN INTOLERANCE

Growers of Montana wheat were asked their level of concern regarding gluten intolerance, either medically or perceived, affecting wheat food/beverage sales. The following shows the options respondents had to choose from:

**Extremely:** I believe it's creating a severe impact on our income.
**Very:** I believe it is impacting our income some.
**A Little Bit:** I believe it has impact on some markets, but I believe fads change so I'm not too worried.
**Not At All:** It really doesn't concern me.

Survey responses from producers are illustrated in the following chart.

**Concern Level about Consumer Gluten Intolerance**
**Montana: 2025**



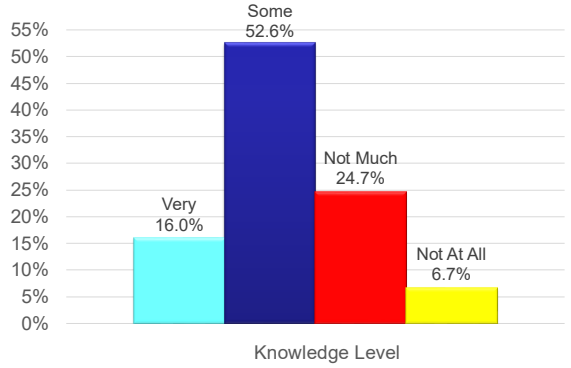

## KNOWLEDGE OF END USE PRODUCTS

Growers were also asked their level of knowledge regarding the end-use products made from Montana grown wheat. Producers had the following options to choose from:

**Very:** I have educated myself through experiences and personal study.
**Some:** I understand how variety selection can make a difference but need to know more.
**Not Much:** It's not something I hear about very often, but maybe I should focus more on.
**Not At All:** I have no idea what products are made, but I'm really not interested in that anyway.

Survey responses from producers are illustrated in the following chart.

**Knowledge of Montana Wheat End-Use Products**
**Montana: 2025**




## EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON NUTRITIONAL VALUE

Lastly, growers of both wheat and barley were asked whether the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee should invest in a campaign to educate Montana consumers about the nutritional value of wheat and barley. Survey respondents had the following options to choose from:

**Absolutely:** We need truthful food messaging, and it could help our value-added industry.
**Sure:** But better if it's in cooperation with other Montana farm group(s).
**Maybe:** I believe it's important, but I would not spend much time on it.
**No:** I prefer MWBC funds stay focused on research and overseas markets.

Survey responses from producers are illustrated in the following chart.

**Education Campaign on Nutritional Value**
**Montana: 2025**